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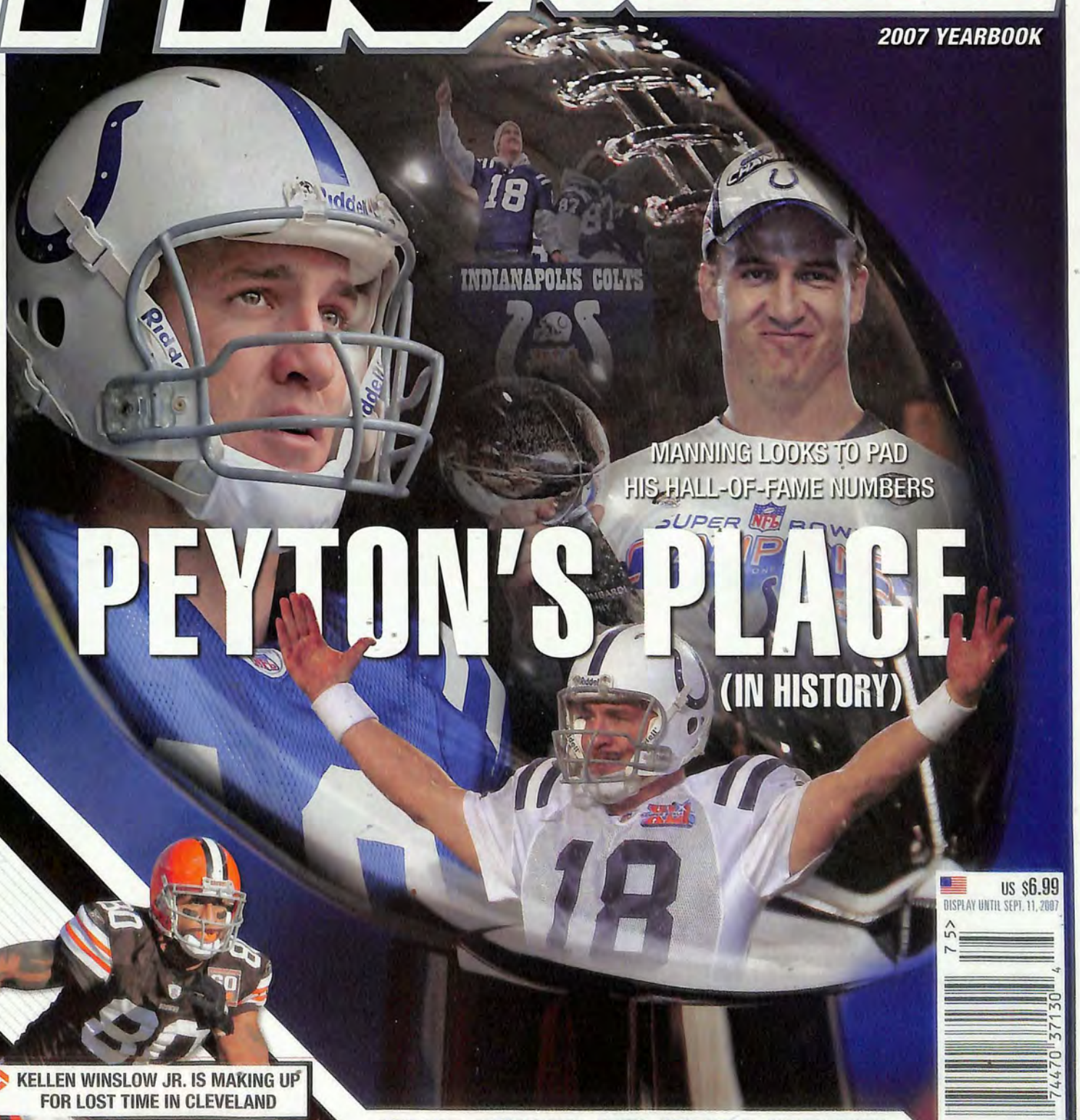


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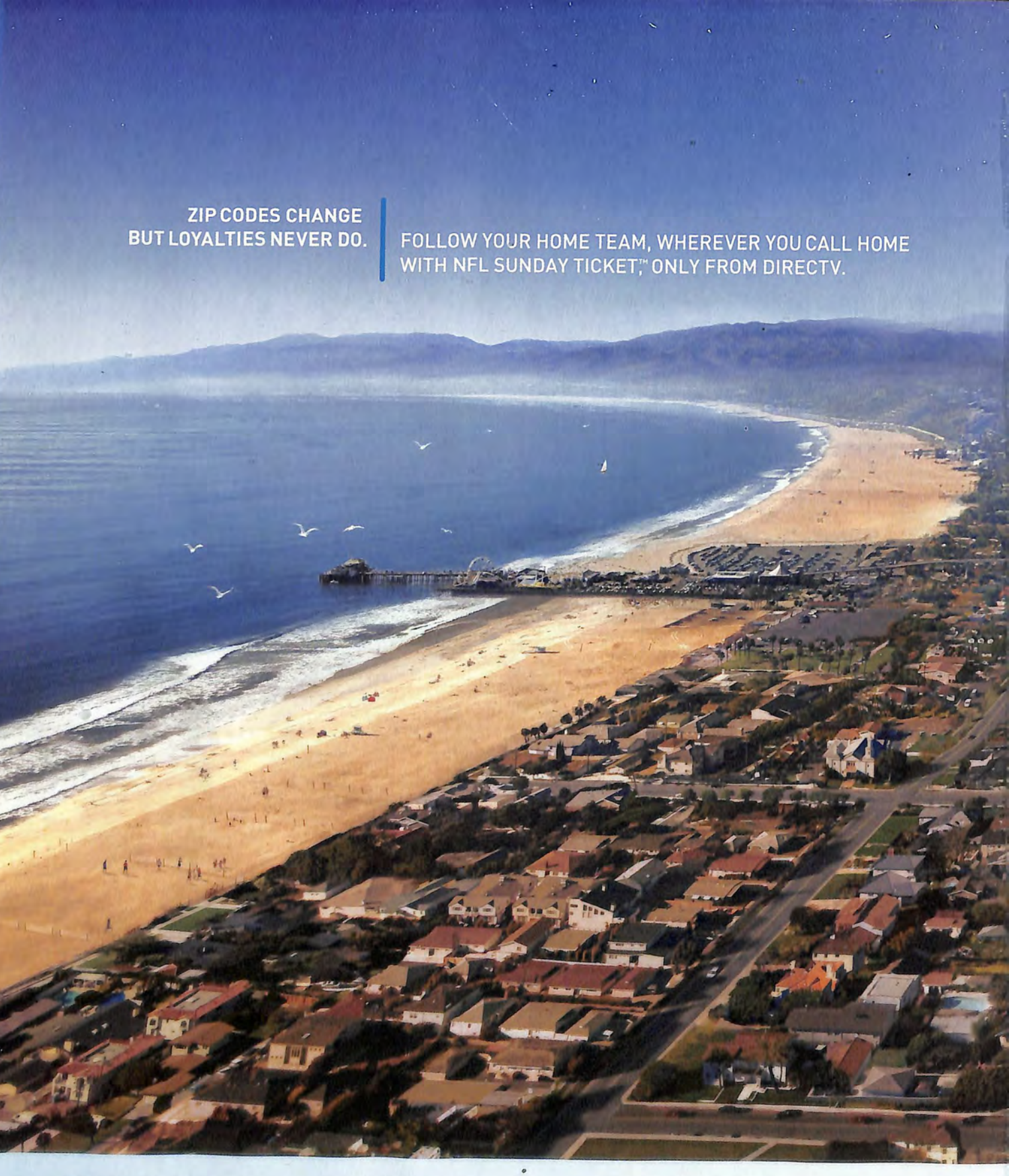
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PRO FOOTBALL
EDITOR'S NOTE 2007

# Wish list for the commish

As we enter the 2007 NFL season with a new commissioner, Roger Goodell, it's a good time to break out the *Street & Smith's* to-do list for pro football, broken down in two parts: what we need more of and what we need less of.

## GIVE US MORE ...

... players like Frank Gore, Shaun Alexander, Marvin Harrison, Peyton Manning, Vince Young, Brian Urlacher, Drew Brees, Reggie Bush, Tom Brady, LaDainian Tomlinson, Brett Favre and Donovan McNabb—the kinds of athletes who show they can be superstars on the field without being jerks away from it.

## GIVE US LESS ...

... players like Adam "Pacman" Jones, Terrell Owens, Randy Moss and Tank Johnson, who constantly seem to find ways to bring attention to themselves and be unhappy with what for the rest of us would be a dream job.

## GIVE US MORE ...

... coaches like Lovie Smith, Tony Dungy, Eric Mangini, Bill Belichick and John Fox, who quietly go about the business of winning the right way without drawing attention to themselves.

## GIVE US LESS ...

... coaches like Tom Coughlin, Norv Turner and Marvin Lewis, who are miscast in their roles and should instead be, respectively, a Marine drill sergeant, hapless government official and probation officer.

## GIVE US MORE ...

... analysts like Chris Mortensen, Mike Golic, Tom Jackson, Mike Ditka and Chris Collinsworth, who make the NFL fun *and* informative.

## GIVE US LESS ...

... analysts like Mark Schlereth, Ron Jaworski and Merrill Hoge, who are boring and always find a way to turn football into some kind of complicated algebra problem.

## GIVE US MORE ...

... broadcasters like Mike Greenberg, Bob Costas and Suzy Kolber, who thankfully are in the "fun-and-informative" category.

## GIVE US LESS ...

... broadcasters like Chris Berman and Stuart Scott, who take themselves way too seriously and have become caricatures of themselves.

## GIVE US MORE ...

... venues like Lambeau, Soldier and Seattle's amazing Qwest Field.
.... snow games in the playoffs.
... option plays (I know, I'm dreaming).
... drug testing.

## GIVE US LESS ...

... players on performance-enhancing drugs.
... analysts on the Sunday morning pregame shows (three is enough).
... time to review contested calls.
... cable systems that don't carry NFL Network.

So there you go, Mr. Goodell. Let's hope you can get cracking on some of these things. You need to take full advantage of your year without Pacman.

SCOTT SMITH
EDITOR



Street & Smith's SPORTS ANNUALS
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PRO FOOTBALL

JUNE 2007
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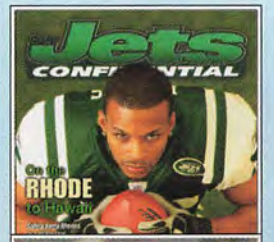


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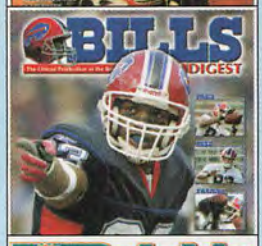


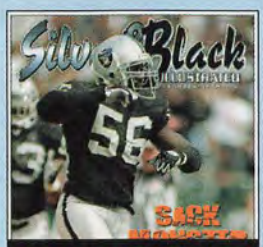


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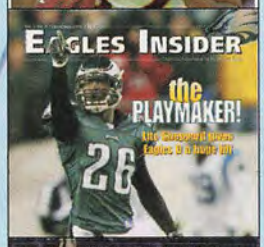


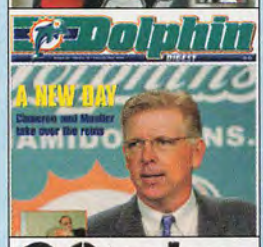

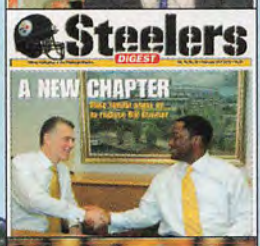

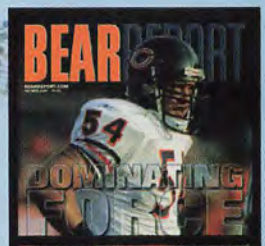

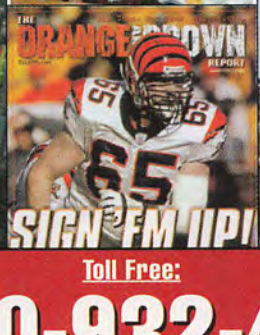

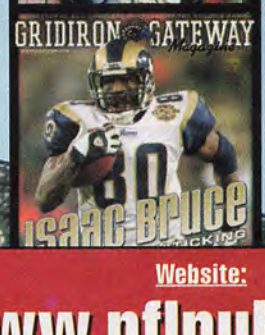


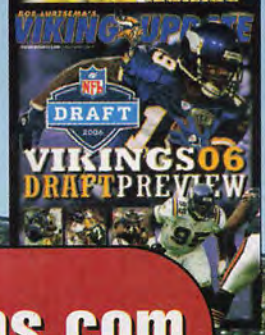


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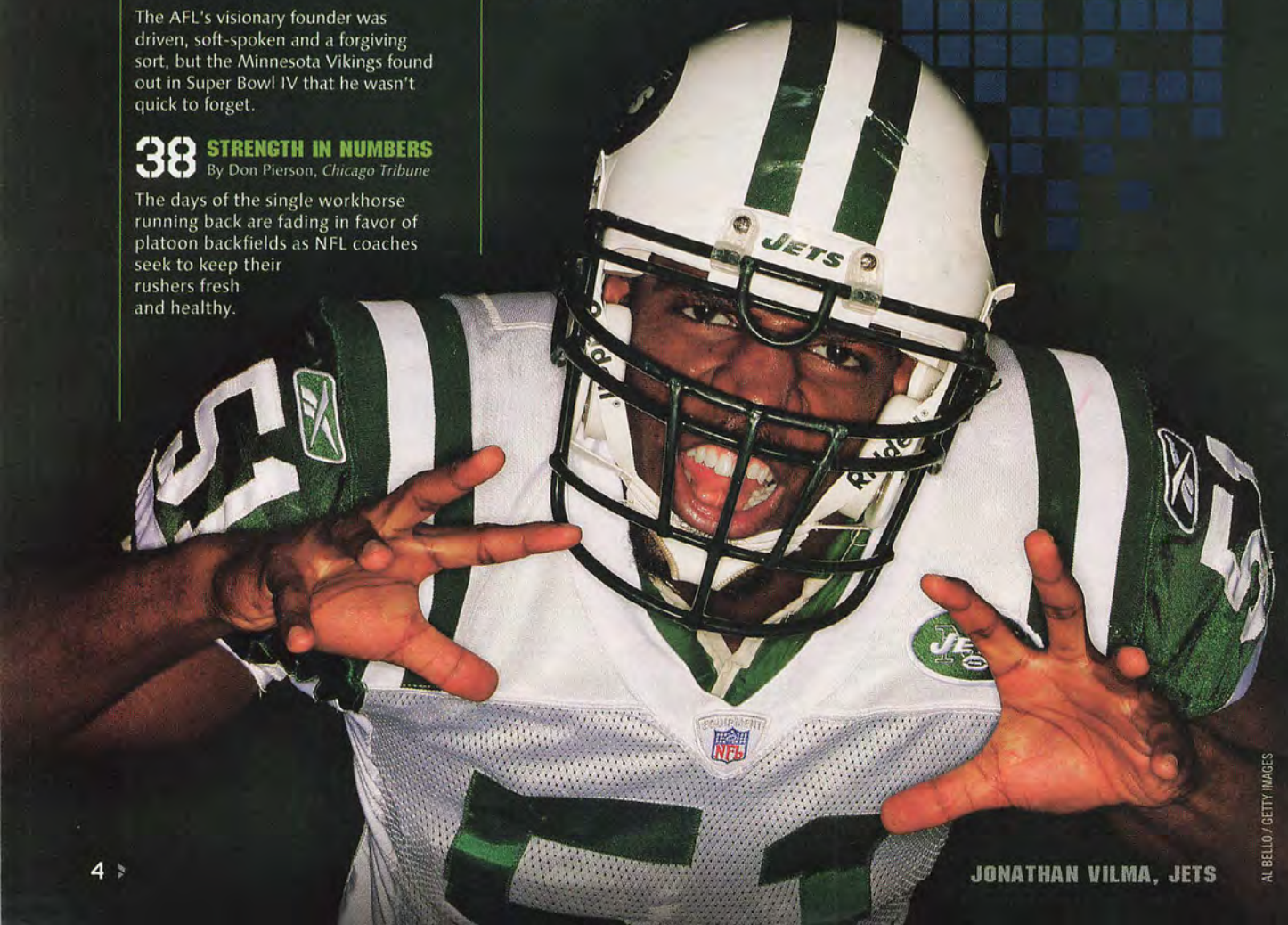


JONATHAN VILMA, JETS

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  **WON '06:** LSU (-15) Ariz 45-3
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*Nicky*

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*When he was head linesmaker at Binion's Horseshoe - and later at the Stratosphere and the Mandalay Bay - Nick's lines were like Shakespeare: you could quote them, but you couldn't beat them. Big players tried. Black satchels flew in from the Apple, Hong Kong, Miami and Fleet Street; mostly empty bags came out. Nicky never went down for the count and neither will you if you join him because now that Nicky is on OUR side, he still calls the tune, only now it's we PLAYERS who dance our way to the bank!*

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| S16 | Lou'ville (-4) Miami | 31-7 | W | | | | |
| S17 | Cowboys (-6 ½) Redskns | 27-10 | W | | | | |
| O 8 | Vikings (-6 ½) Lions | 26-17 | W | N 4 | Tex Tech(-16) Baylor | 55-21 | W |
| | Eagles (-1 ½) Cowboys | 38-24 | W | N12 | Titans (+7) Ravens | 26-27 | W |
| O12 | Colo St (+6) AFA | 21-24 | W | N18 | Michigan (+7) Ohio St | 39-42 | W |
| O14 | LSU (-26) Kentucky | 49-0 | W | | Alabama (+3) Auburn | 15-22 | L |
| | Oklahoma (-19) Iowa St | 34-9 | W | N19 | Pats (-5 ½)Packers | 35-0 | W |
| O15 | Redskins (-10) Titans | 22-25 | L | N23 | Dolphins (-3) Lions | 27-10 | W |
| O23 | Giants/Cowboys (↑44 ½) | 36-22 | W | | Chiefs (-1) Broncos | 19-10 | W |
| O28 | So Miss (-5 ½) E Car | 17-20 | L | N24 | Fresno St(-12)La Tech | 34-27 | L |
| O29 | Raiders (+9 ½)Steelers | 20-13 | W | N26 | Bengals (-3) Browns | 30-0 | W |

**Jack Binion,**
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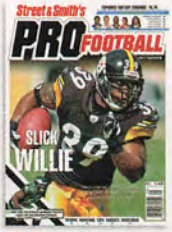


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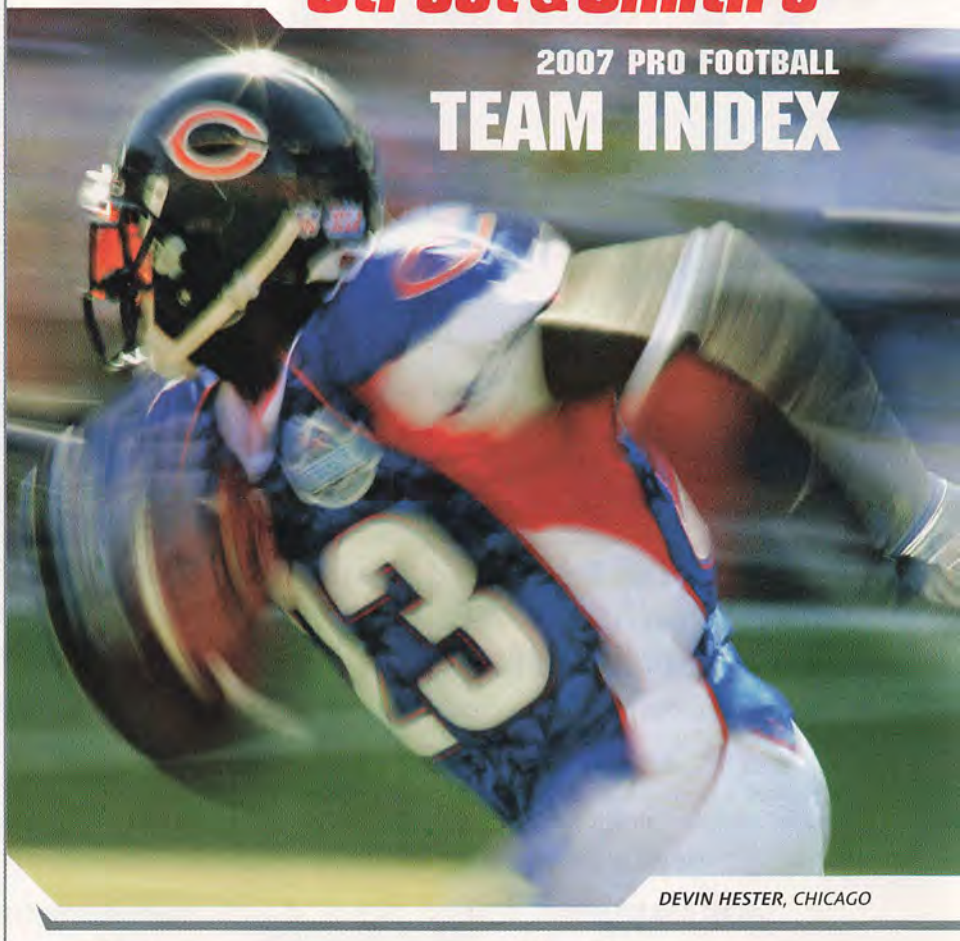


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- ***THE MAN WHO PROVED YOU COULD MAKE A FORTUNE BETTING FOOTBALL!***

My name is Kelso Sturgeon, and I want to share with you a message that could make a big difference in your life. First of all, I have been handicapping football professionally for 38 years and have participated in its evolution from a strictly gambling adventure to a business in which I have proved time and again ***you can make a fortune betting on football games.***

I have been a student of football as a player and later as a scout and recruiter in the Southeastern Conference. I have studied with and learned from some of the all-time greats - people such as the greatest college football coach in history, **Paul "Bear" Bryant** of Alabama, and later from **Hank Stram** who as coach of the Chiefs proved he had an analytical mind without equal as he won a Super Bowl and punched his ticket into the Hall of Fame. And I can never forget the lessons I learned from legendary Colt quarterback **John Unitas** and others such as Cowboy defensive end **Randy White** and the Rams all-pro wide receiver **Jack Snow.** *I learned the game from the best in the business.*

My exploits in the world of football handicapping have earned me a very special place in a business where the score is kept with money. I wrote the first book on sports betting ever published by a legitimate publisher-***The Complete Guide To Sports Betting*** (Harper and Row). ***I am the only handicapper to ever testify before the United States Congress on the subject of sports betting***. You have read about me in such publications as *The Wall Street Journal, Playboy, Maxim,* and *New York Times* and have seen me on television analyzing football games.

*"But the only thing that means anything to me is that I am a PROVEN WINNER in an arena which devours and buries the pretenders!"*

## I WIN MONEY FOR MY CLIENTS AND IT IS NOT AN ACCIDENT.

Winning is not an accident nor a miracle nor the work of fate! It is the product of insight, superior analysis and hard work! And my record confirms it all. **Last year my Best Bets Club produced these profits for $10 bettors:**

All records available by request at 1-800-755-2255

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| September: | **+193 UNITS** | *PROFIT OF JUST UNDER* | **$1,900** |
| October: | **+99 UNITS** | *PROFIT OF JUST UNDER* | **$900** |
| November: | **+30 UNITS** | *PROFIT OF JUST UNDER* | **$300** |
| December: | **+20 UNITS** | *PROFIT OF JUST UNDER* | **$200** |

*That's a regular season profit of more than **$3,200** betting just $10 per unit!*

### AND LET'S NOT FORGET SOME OF MY BIGGER PLAYS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9/10 | NFL Game of the Month | 100 Units | Chicago (-3 ½) 26, Green Bay 0 | WINNER! |
| 9/17 | AFC Game of the Year | 50 Units | San Diego (-11) 40, Tennessee 7 | WINNER! |
| 9/23 | College Game of the Year | 100 Units | Louisville (-13½) 24, Kansas St. 6 | WINNER! |
| 10/8 | NFL Game of the Year | 100 Units | Eagles (-2 ½) 38, Cowboys 24 | WINNER! |

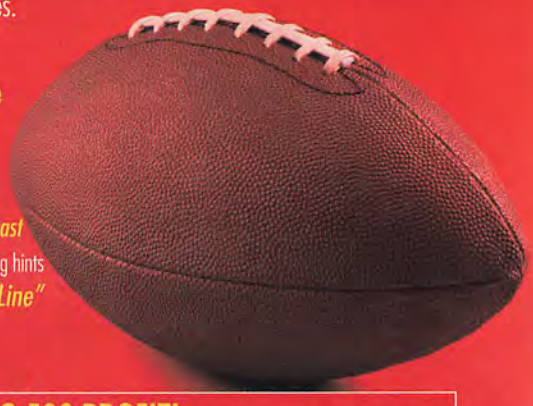
## Join my Best Bet Club members to make your football fortune!

***Here is what you get:***

- Average of 3 College Best Bets every Saturday.
- Average of 3 NFL Best Bets every Sunday.
- Best Bet for almost every Monday game.
- Best Bet on most weeknight college games.
- 50-Unit September College Game of the Month
- 50-Unit September Pro Game of the Month
- 100-Unit College Game of the Year
- 100-Unit NFL Game of the Year

### Plus Free Bonuses:

- All NFL Pre-Season Best Bets & Game of the Year – Last year's Pre-Season Game of the Year: Giants (-3 ½) 13 Jets 7 *(I finished last year's pre-season +21 Units)*
- Subscription to *Kelso's Weekly Football Forecast* Filled with more winners, power ratings, handicapping hints
- Mid-week e-mail newsletter, *"The Bettor Line"* The latest info you need to win!



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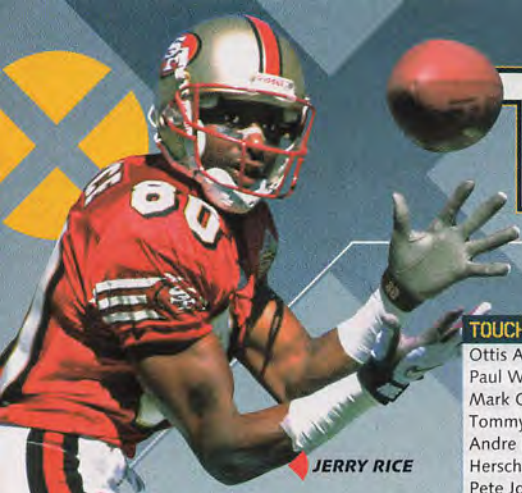
WHEN KELSO STURGEON SAYS HE IS GOING TO WIN, YOU CAN BET ON IT!

# TARGETS

* ACTIVE PLAYERS FROM 2006 IN CAPS || COMPILED BY STATS INC.



JERRY RICE

## TOUCHDOWNS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Jerry Rice** | **208** |
| Emmitt Smith | 175 |
| Marcus Allen | 145 |
| Marshall Faulk | 136 |
| Cris Carter | 131 |
| Jim Brown | 126 |
| Walter Payton | 125 |
| MARVIN HARRISON | 122 |
| TERRELL OWENS | 116 |
| John Riggins | 116 |
| Lenny Moore | 113 |
| LaDAINIAN TOMLINSON | 111 |
| Barry Sanders | 109 |
| SHAUN ALEXANDER | 107 |
| Tim Brown | 105 |
| Don Hutson | 105 |
| RANDY MOSS | 102 |
| Steve Largent | 101 |
| Franco Harris | 100 |
| Curtis Martin | 100 |
| Eric Dickerson | 96 |
| Jerome Bettis | 94 |
| Priest Holmes | 94 |
| Jim Taylor | 93 |
| Tony Dorsett | 91 |
| Bobby Mitchell | 91 |
| Ricky Watters | 91 |
| Leroy Kelly | 90 |
| Charley Taylor | 90 |
| COREY DILLON | 89 |
| Irving Fryar | 88 |
| Don Maynard | 88 |
| Andre Reed | 88 |
| Thurman Thomas | 88 |
| Lance Alworth | 87 |

## TOUCHDOWNS (cont.)

| | |
|---|---|
| Ottis Anderson | 86 |
| Paul Warfield | 86 |
| Mark Clayton | 85 |
| Tommy McDonald | 85 |
| Andre Rison | 84 |
| Herschel Walker | 84 |
| Pete Johnson | 82 |
| Art Powell | 82 |
| EDGERRIN JAMES | 81 |
| ISAAC BRUCE | 80 |
| Terry Allen | 79 |
| James Brooks | 79 |
| Harold Carmichael | 79 |
| Eddie George | 78 |
| Frank Gifford | 78 |

## TOUCHDOWN PASSES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Dan Marino** | **420** |
| BRETT FAVRE | 414 |
| Fran Tarkenton | 342 |
| John Elway | 300 |
| Warren Moon | 291 |
| Johnny Unitas | 290 |
| PEYTON MANNING | 275 |
| Joe Montana | 273 |
| VINNY TESTAVERDE | 270 |
| Dave Krieg | 261 |
| Sonny Jurgensen | 255 |
| Dan Fouts | 254 |
| DREW BLEDSOE | 251 |
| Boomer Esiason | 247 |
| John Hadl | 244 |
| Len Dawson | 239 |
| Jim Kelly | 237 |
| George Blanda | 236 |
| Steve Young | 232 |
| John Brodie | 214 |
| Terry Bradshaw | 212 |
| Y.A. Tittle | 212 |
| Jim Hart | 209 |
| Randall Cunningham | 207 |
| Jim Everett | 203 |
| Roman Gabriel | 201 |
| Phil Simms | 199 |
| Ken Anderson | 197 |
| Steve DeBerg | 196 |
| Joe Ferguson | 196 |
| Bobby Layne | 196 |
| Norm Snead | 196 |
| Ken Stabler | 194 |

## TOUCHDOWN PASSES (cont.)

| | |
|---|---|
| Bob Griese | 192 |
| Sammy Baugh | 187 |
| Craig Morton | 183 |
| MARK BRUNELL | 182 |
| Steve Grogan | 182 |
| Rich Gannon | 180 |
| Ron Jaworski | 179 |
| Babe Parilli | 178 |
| KERRY COLLINS | 174 |
| Charlie Conerly | 173 |
| Joe Namath | 173 |
| Norm Van Brocklin | 173 |
| STEVE McNAIR | 172 |
| Chris Chandler | 170 |
| Charley Johnson | 170 |
| Troy Aikman | 165 |
| BRAD JOHNSON | 164 |
| Daryle Lamonica | 164 |
| Jim Plunkett | 164 |

## POINTS

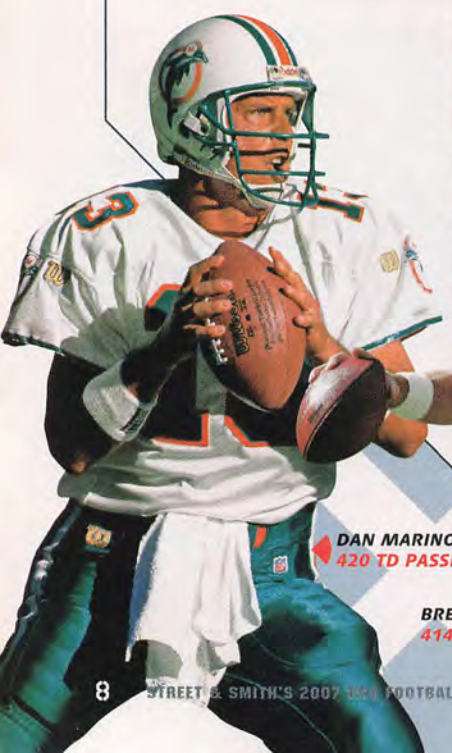
| | |
|---|---|
| **MORTEN ANDERSEN** | **2,445** |
| Gary Anderson | 2,434 |
| George Blanda | 2,002 |
| JOHN CARNEY | 1,749 |
| Norm Johnson | 1,736 |
| MATT STOVER | 1,715 |
| Nick Lowery | 1,711 |
| Jan Stenerud | 1,699 |
| JASON ELAM | 1,672 |
| Eddie Murray | 1,594 |
| Al Del Greco | 1,584 |
| JASON HANSON | 1,537 |
| Steve Christie | 1,476 |
| Pat Leahy | 1,470 |
| Jim Turner | 1,439 |
| Matt Bahr | 1,422 |
| JOHN KASAY | 1,405 |
| Mark Moseley | 1,382 |
| Jim Bakken | 1,380 |
| Fred Cox | 1,365 |
| Lou Groza | 1,349 |
| JEFF WILKINS | 1,319 |
| ADAM VINATIERI | 1,271 |
| Jerry Rice | 1,256 |
| Jim Breech | 1,246 |
| Pete Stoyanovich | 1,236 |
| Chris Bahr | 1,213 |
| Kevin Butler | 1,208 |
| RYAN LONGWELL | 1,144 |
| Gino Cappelletti | 1,130 |
| Ray Wersching | 1,122 |
| Don Cockroft | 1,080 |
| Garo Yepremian | 1,074 |
| MIKE VANDERJAGT | 1,067 |
| Emmitt Smith | 1,052 |
| OLINDO MARE | 1,048 |
| Todd Peterson | 1,043 |
| Bruce Gossett | 1,031 |
| Jeff Jaeger | 1,008 |
| Sam Baker | 977 |
| Greg Davis | 962 |
| Rafael Septien | 960 |
| Lou Michaels | 955 |
| Chris Jacke | 944 |
| Fuad Reveiz | 931 |
| Doug Brien | 915 |
| Chip Lohmiller | 913 |
| Roy Gerela | 903 |
| JOHN HALL | 889 |
| Bobby Walston | 881 |

## PASSING YARDAGE

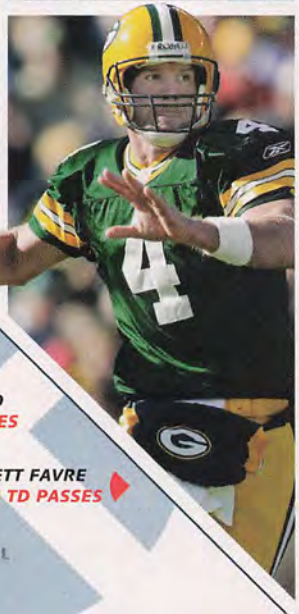
| | |
|---|---|
| **Dan Marino** | **61,361** |
| BRETT FAVRE | 57,500 |
| John Elway | 51,475 |
| Warren Moon | 49,325 |
| Fran Tarkenton | 47,003 |
| VINNY TESTAVERDE | 45,281 |
| DREW BLEDSOE | 44,611 |
| Dan Fouts | 43,040 |
| Joe Montana | 40,551 |
| Johnny Unitas | 40,239 |
| Dave Krieg | 38,147 |
| Boomer Esiason | 37,920 |
| PEYTON MANNING | 37,586 |
| Jim Kelly | 35,467 |
| Jim Everett | 34,837 |
| Jim Hart | 34,665 |
| Steve DeBerg | 34,241 |
| KERRY COLLINS | 34,186 |
| John Hadl | 33,503 |
| Phil Simms | 33,462 |
| Steve Young | 33,124 |
| Troy Aikman | 32,942 |
| Ken Anderson | 32,838 |
| Sonny Jurgensen | 32,224 |
| MARK BRUNELL | 31,826 |
| John Brodie | 31,548 |
| Norm Snead | 30,797 |
| STEVE McNAIR | 30,191 |
| Randall Cunningham | 29,979 |
| Joe Ferguson | 29,817 |
| Roman Gabriel | 29,444 |
| JAKE PLUMMER | 29,253 |
| Rich Gannon | 28,743 |
| Len Dawson | 28,711 |
| BRAD JOHNSON | 28,548 |
| Chris Chandler | 28,484 |
| Y.A. Tittle | 28,339 |
| Ron Jaworski | 28,190 |
| Terry Bradshaw | 27,989 |
| Ken Stabler | 27,938 |
| Craig Morton | 27,908 |
| Joe Namath | 27,663 |
| Jeff George | 27,602 |
| TRENT GREEN | 26,963 |
| George Blanda | 26,920 |
| Steve Grogan | 26,886 |
| Bobby Layne | 26,768 |
| Jim Harbaugh | 26,288 |
| Jim Plunkett | 25,882 |
| Joe Theismann | 25,206 |

## PASS COMPLETIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BRETT FAVRE** | **5,021** |
| Dan Marino | 4,967 |
| John Elway | 4,123 |
| Warren Moon | 3,988 |
| DREW BLEDSOE | 3,839 |
| VINNY TESTAVERDE | 3,693 |
| Fran Tarkenton | 3,686 |
| Joe Montana | 3,409 |
| Dan Fouts | 3,297 |
| PEYTON MANNING | 3,131 |
| Dave Krieg | 3,105 |
| Boomer Esiason | 2,969 |
| Troy Aikman | 2,898 |
| Steve DeBerg | 2,874 |
| Jim Kelly | 2,874 |
| KERRY COLLINS | 2,868 |
| Jim Everett | 2,841 |
| Johnny Unitas | 2,830 |
| MARK BRUNELL | 2,738 |
| Steve Young | 2,667 |



DAN MARINO
420 TD PASSES



BRETT FAVRE
414 TD PASSES

CLOCKWISE: ALBERT DICKSON / ICON SMI; JEFF HAMISCH / US PRESSWIRE; JEFF CARLICK / SPORTSCHROME

## PASS COMPLETIONS (cont.)

| | |
|---|---|
| Ken Anderson | 2,654 |
| BRAD JOHNSON | 2,620 |
| STEVE McNAIR | 2,600 |
| Jim Hart | 2,593 |
| Phil Simms | 2,576 |
| Rich Gannon | 2,533 |
| JAKE PLUMMER | 2,484 |
| John Brodie | 2,469 |
| Sonny Jurgensen | 2,433 |
| Randall Cunningham | 2,429 |
| Joe Ferguson | 2,369 |
| Roman Gabriel | 2,366 |
| John Hadl | 2,363 |
| Chris Chandler | 2,328 |
| Jim Harbaugh | 2,305 |
| Jeff George | 2,298 |
| Norm Snead | 2,276 |
| Ken Stabler | 2,270 |
| Ron Jaworski | 2,187 |
| TRENT GREEN | 2,143 |
| Len Dawson | 2,136 |
| Y.A. Tittle | 2,118 |
| Ken O'Brien | 2,110 |
| Craig Morton | 2,053 |
| Joe Theismann | 2,044 |
| JON KITNA | 2,039 |
| Terry Bradshaw | 2,025 |
| Tommy Kramer | 2,012 |
| Archie Manning | 2,011 |
| Bernie Kosar | 1,994 |

## RUSHING YARDAGE

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Emmitt Smith*** | **18,355** |
| Walter Payton | 16,726 |
| Barry Sanders | 15,269 |
| Curtis Martin | 14,101 |
| Jerome Bettis | 13,662 |
| Eric Dickerson | 13,259 |
| Tony Dorsett | 12,739 |
| Jim Brown | 12,312 |
| Marshall Faulk | 12,279 |
| Marcus Allen | 12,243 |
| Franco Harris | 12,120 |
| Thurman Thomas | 12,074 |
| John Riggins | 11,352 |
| COREY DILLON | 11,241 |
| O.J. Simpson | 11,236 |
| Ricky Watters | 10,643 |
| TIKI BARBER | 10,449 |
| Eddie George | 10,441 |
| EDGERRIN JAMES | 10,385 |
| Ottis Anderson | 10,273 |
| FRED TAYLOR | 9,513 |
| WARRICK DUNN | 9,461 |
| Earl Campbell | 9,407 |
| LaDAINIAN TOMLINSON | 9,176 |
| SHAUN ALEXANDER | 8,713 |
| Terry Allen | 8,614 |
| Jim Taylor | 8,597 |
| AHMAN GREEN | 8,491 |
| Joe Perry | 8,378 |
| Earnest Byner | 8,261 |
| Herschel Walker | 8,225 |
| Roger Craig | 8,189 |
| Gerald Riggs | 8,188 |
| Larry Csonka | 8,081 |
| Freeman McNeil | 8,074 |
| STEPHEN DAVIS | 8,052 |
| Priest Holmes | 8,035 |
| Garrison Hearst | 7,966 |
| James Brooks | 7,962 |
| JAMAL LEWIS | 7,801 |
| Chris Warren | 7,696 |
| Terrell Davis | 7,607 |
| Mike Pruitt | 7,378 |
| Leroy Kelly | 7,274 |
| George Rogers | 7,176 |
| Charlie Garner | 7,097 |
| Ricky Williams | 7,097 |
| Rodney Hampton | 6,897 |
| Antowain Smith | 6,881 |
| Curt Warner | 6,844 |

## RECEPTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Jerry Rice*** | **1,549** |
| Cris Carter | 1,101 |
| Tim Brown | 1,094 |
| MARVIN HARRISON | 1,022 |
| Andre Reed | 951 |
| Art Monk | 940 |
| ISAAC BRUCE | 887 |
| Jimmy Smith | 862 |
| KEENAN McCARDELL | 861 |
| Irving Fryar | 851 |
| ROD SMITH | 849 |
| Larry Centers | 827 |
| Steve Largent | 819 |
| Shannon Sharpe | 815 |
| Henry Ellard | 814 |
| KEYSHAWN JOHNSON | 814 |
| TERRELL OWENS | 801 |
| Marshall Faulk | 767 |
| James Lofton | 764 |
| Michael Irvin | 750 |
| Charlie Joiner | 750 |
| Andre Rison | 743 |
| ERIC MOULDS | 732 |
| TONY GONZALEZ | 721 |
| TORRY HOLT | 712 |
| MUHSIN MUHAMMAD | 702 |
| Gary Clark | 699 |
| Terance Mathis | 689 |
| RANDY MOSS | 676 |
| Herman Moore | 670 |
| RICKY PROEHL | 669 |
| Ozzie Newsome | 662 |
| Charley Taylor | 649 |
| HINES WARD | 648 |
| Drew Hill | 634 |
| Don Maynard | 633 |
| Raymond Berry | 631 |
| Rob Moore | 628 |
| Johnnie Morton | 624 |
| JOEY GALLOWAY | 612 |
| Keith Byars | 610 |
| DERRICK MASON | 607 |
| Anthony Miller | 595 |
| Sterling Sharpe | 595 |
| Curtis Conway | 594 |
| TERRY GLENN | 593 |
| Tony Martin | 593 |
| Harold Carmichael | 590 |
| Fred Biletnikoff | 589 |
| Marcus Allen | 587 |

## RECEIVING YARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Jerry Rice*** | **22,895** |
| Tim Brown | 14,934 |
| James Lofton | 14,004 |
| Cris Carter | 13,899 |
| Henry Ellard | 13,777 |
| MARVIN HARRISON | 13,697 |
| ISAAC BRUCE | 13,376 |
| Andre Reed | 13,198 |
| Steve Largent | 13,089 |
| Irving Fryar | 12,785 |
| Art Monk | 12,721 |
| Jimmy Smith | 12,287 |
| Charlie Joiner | 12,146 |
| Michael Irvin | 11,904 |
| Don Maynard | 11,834 |
| TERRELL OWENS | 11,715 |
| ROD SMITH | 11,389 |
| KEENAN McCARDELL | 11,117 |
| Gary Clark | 10,856 |
| Stanley Morgan | 10,716 |
| RANDY MOSS | 10,700 |
| TORRY HOLT | 10,675 |
| KEYSHAWN JOHNSON | 10,571 |
| Harold Jackson | 10,372 |
| Lance Alworth | 10,266 |
| Andre Rison | 10,205 |
| Shannon Sharpe | 10,060 |
| Drew Hill | 9,831 |
| ERIC MOULDS | 9,653 |
| JOEY GALLOWAY | 9,558 |

## RECEIVING YARDS (cont.)

| | |
|---|---|
| Rob Moore | 9,368 |
| MUHSIN MUHAMMAD | 9,364 |
| Raymond Berry | 9,275 |
| Herman Moore | 9,174 |
| Anthony Miller | 9,148 |
| Charley Taylor | 9,110 |
| Tony Martin | 9,065 |
| Harold Carmichael | 8,985 |
| Fred Biletnikoff | 8,974 |
| Mark Clayton | 8,974 |
| Wes Chandler | 8,966 |
| Roy Green | 8,965 |
| RICKY PROEHL | 8,878 |
| Mark Duper | 8,869 |
| TERRY GLENN | 8,823 |
| Terance Mathis | 8,809 |
| Mark Carrier | 8,763 |
| John Stallworth | 8,723 |
| Johnnie Morton | 8,719 |
| TONY GONZALEZ | 8,710 |

## INTERCEPTIONS

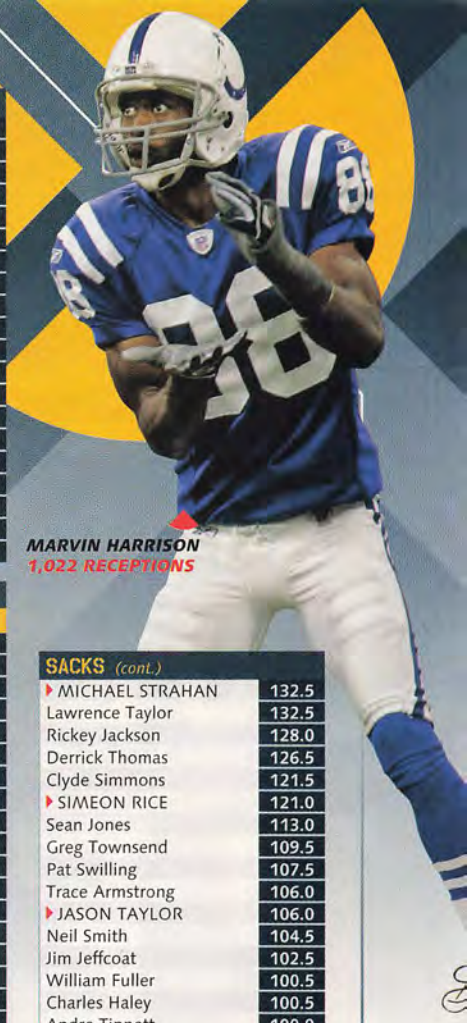
| | |
|---|---|
| ***Paul Krause*** | **81** |
| Emlen Tunnell | 79 |
| Rod Woodson | 71 |
| Dick "Night Train" Lane | 68 |
| Ken Riley | 65 |
| Ronnie Lott | 63 |
| Dave Brown | 62 |
| Dick LeBeau | 62 |
| Emmitt Thomas | 58 |
| Mel Blount | 57 |
| Bobby Boyd | 57 |
| Eugene Robinson | 57 |
| Johnny Robinson | 57 |
| Everson Walls | 57 |
| Lem Barney | 56 |
| Pat Fischer | 56 |
| Aeneas Williams | 55 |
| Eric Allen | 54 |
| Willie Brown | 54 |
| Darrell Green | 54 |
| Deion Sanders | 53 |
| Jack Butler | 52 |
| Bobby Dillon | 52 |
| Jimmy Patton | 52 |
| Mel Renfro | 52 |
| Larry Wilson | 52 |
| Bobby Bryant | 51 |
| Donnie Shell | 51 |
| Terrell Buckley | 50 |
| Don Burroughs | 50 |
| Deron Cherry | 50 |
| John Harris | 50 |
| Yale Lary | 50 |
| TY LAW | 50 |
| Ken Houston | 49 |
| Jake Scott | 49 |
| DARREN SHARPER | 49 |
| Herb Adderley | 48 |
| Dave Grayson | 48 |
| Richie Petitbon | 48 |
| Dave Waymer | 48 |
| Willie Wood | 48 |
| Ray Buchanan | 47 |
| Jim Johnson | 47 |
| Lemar Parrish | 47 |
| TROY VINCENT | 47 |
| Jack Christiansen | 46 |
| Goose Gonsoulin | 46 |
| Mike Haynes | 46 |
| Ed Meador | 46 |
| Dave Whitsell | 46 |

## SACKS

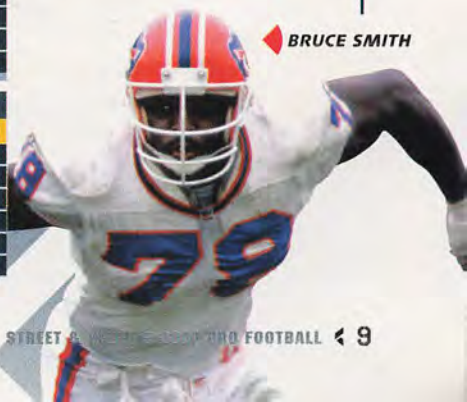
| | |
|---|---|
| ***Bruce Smith*** | **200.0** |
| Reggie White | 198.0 |
| Kevin Greene | 160.0 |
| Chris Doleman | 150.5 |
| Richard Dent | 137.5 |
| John Randle | 137.5 |
| Leslie O'Neal | 132.5 |

## SACKS (cont.)

| | |
|---|---|
| MICHAEL STRAHAN | 132.5 |
| Lawrence Taylor | 132.5 |
| Rickey Jackson | 128.0 |
| Derrick Thomas | 126.5 |
| Clyde Simmons | 121.5 |
| SIMEON RICE | 121.0 |
| Sean Jones | 113.0 |
| Greg Townsend | 109.5 |
| Pat Swilling | 107.5 |
| Trace Armstrong | 106.0 |
| JASON TAYLOR | 106.0 |
| Neil Smith | 104.5 |
| Jim Jeffcoat | 102.5 |
| William Fuller | 100.5 |
| Charles Haley | 100.5 |
| Andre Tippett | 100.0 |
| KEVIN CARTER | 97.5 |
| Simon Fletcher | 97.5 |
| Jacob Green | 97.5 |
| Dexter Manley | 97.5 |
| Robert Porcher | 95.5 |
| Steve McMichael | 95.0 |
| WARREN SAPP | 94.5 |
| Henry Thomas | 93.5 |
| Ken Harvey | 89.0 |
| Howie Long | 84.0 |
| Leonard Marshall | 83.5 |
| Charles Mann | 83.0 |
| BRYANT YOUNG | 83.0 |
| Wayne Martin | 82.5 |
| Lee Williams | 82.5 |
| WILLIE McGINEST | 82.0 |
| Tim Harris | 81.0 |
| Hugh Douglas | 80.0 |
| Jason Gildon | 80.0 |
| CHAD BROWN | 79.0 |
| Karl Mecklenburg | 79.0 |
| LA'ROI GLOVER | 77.0 |
| TREVOR PRYCE | 77.0 |
| Ray Childress | 76.5 |
| Bryce Paup | 75.0 |
| Mark Gastineau | 74.0 |
| LEONARD LITTLE | 74.0 |

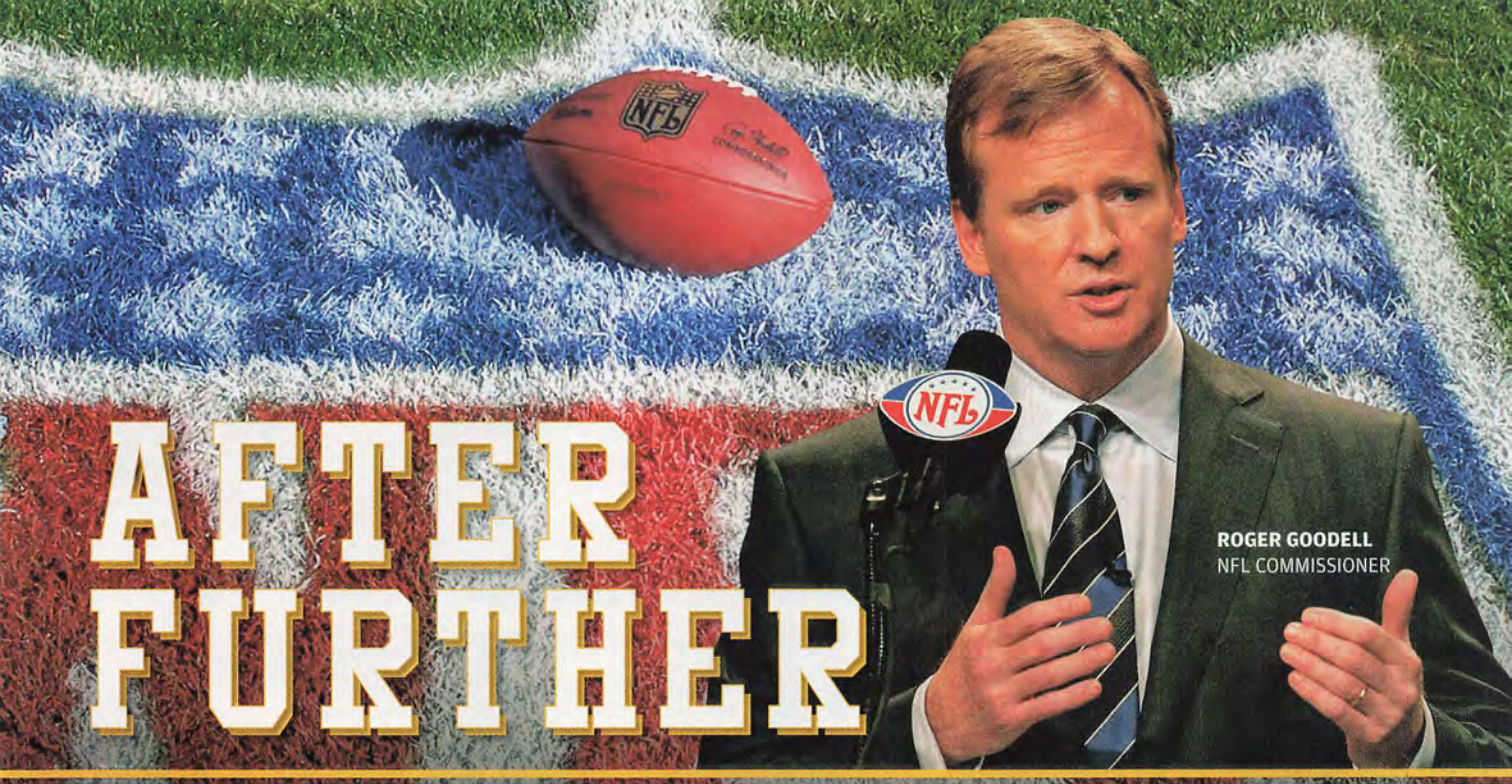


MARVIN HARRISON
1,022 RECEPTIONS



BRUCE SMITH

TOP TO BOTTOM: MARK COWAN / ICON SMI; ICON SMI



ROGER GOODELL
NFL COMMISSIONER

# AFTER FURTHER REVIEW

**The 2007 NFL SEASON features lots of running backs with new destinations and the league's first regular-season game ever played overseas, but character and conduct (or lack thereof) continue to dominate the headlines.**

By Matt McKenzie
*Street & Smith's* Staff Writer

Instead of entertaining on the field, NFL players now seem to draw more headlines with their off-field incidents. Two years ago, it was members of the Minnesota Vikings, who participated in the now-infamous "Love Boat" cruise. And this past offseason was marred by Tennessee Titans cornerback Pacman Jones, whose decision to "make it rain" in February ended up costing him the entire 2007 season.

Add that to the ever-burgeoning number of Bengals who ran afoul of the law (nine in the last year), and something had to be done. Enter Roger Goodell, who wasted no time in establishing a defining moment as the newest NFL commissioner. Just nine months into his job, Goodell tightened the reins on the league's player-conduct policy, as Jones (who was suspended one year) and Cincinnati receiver Chris Henry (8 games) suddenly went from NFL players to examples.

Then there's the case of Bears defensive tackle Tank Johnson, who more than likely will be suspended for an undetermined amount of games as well. Just one problem, though: At press time, Goodell had yet to meet with Johnson because he was serving a four-month sentence in Cook County Jail for a probation violation.

One team that surely can't afford any more trouble is Cincinnati. As the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers were once the "Jail Blazers," the Bengals have now become the "Bad News Bengals."

"It has to stop," quarterback Carson Palmer told the Bengals' Web site in January, after the arrest of cornerback Johnathan Joseph for marijuana possession. "If it doesn't stop, we're not going to have any fans left, and I don't blame them. It's ridiculous. We can't get through a month without getting a guy arrested.

"It happens on another team and they're shocked and surprised to hear about it. With us, you hear about it and it doesn't surprise you and you just shake your head and say, 'Another one.'"

## CONDUCT UNBECOMING

In his letter to both Henry and Jones, Goodell told the players their conduct had "brought embarrassment and ridicule upon yourself, your club and the NFL, and has damaged the reputation of players throughout the league."

Henry had been suspended once already, for two games in October after violating the league's personal-conduct

JONATHAN DANIEL / GETTY IMAGES; (BACKGROUND): DIAMOND IMAGES / GETTY IMAGES

and substance-abuse policies. From December 2005 to June 2006, Henry was arrested four times, on charges ranging from possession of a firearm to providing alcohol to three women who were all 18 or younger.

"We must protect the integrity of the NFL," Goodell says. "The highest standards of conduct must be met by everyone in the NFL because it is a privilege to represent the NFL, not a right."

Henry, who has caught 67 passes for 1,027 yards and 15 TDs in two NFL seasons, may participate in training camp and preseason games, provided he has no further brushes with the law. Jones, however, doesn't get that luxury, as he will only be allowed to spend one day a week at the team's facility for film study and conditioning.

However, if Las Vegas police and prosecutors have their way, Jones could find himself in a situation similar to Johnson's. The city's police have already recommended a felony charge of coercion along with misdemeanor charges of threat and battery for Jones' involvement in an altercation that took place at a local strip club.

Jones and a group of friends were in Las Vegas for the NBA's All-Star Weekend, and went to Minxx Gentleman's Club and Lounge during the early morning of Feb. 19. Jones was carrying a plastic trash bag that reportedly had $81,020 in it, and he used that cash to shower the dancers in a slang term known as "making it rain." However, the money was apparently meant to be used just for show, so when some of the dancers started grabbing the cash, things escalated.

A fight ensued inside the club and ultimately led to three people being shot outside the front door, including security guard Tom Urbanski, who is now paralyzed from the waist down. Police have yet to find the gunman and are still actively pursuing the case, according to Lieutenant George Castro, who also called Jones "an inciter" to events leading up to the shooting.

Jones, who also has a court date pending in Georgia for a felony charge of obstruction, appealed the suspension and was scheduled to have another hearing with Goodell as *Street & Smith's* went to press in May. He took out a full-page ad in the April 20 edition of *The Tennessean*, where he acknowledged "making poor choices."

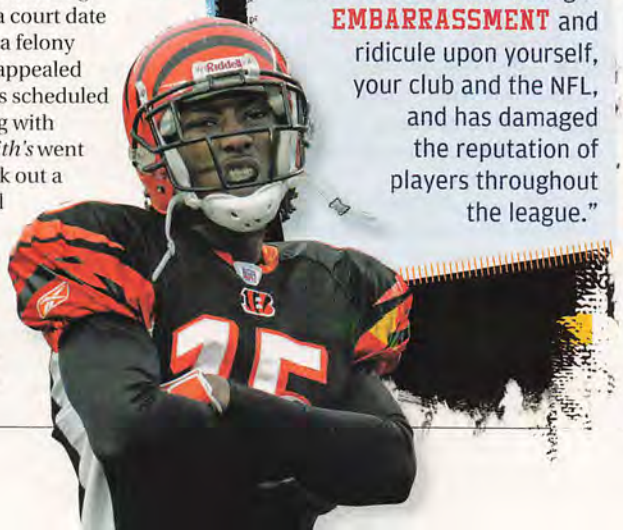
"At age 23, I never thought my life would come to a crossroads," the open-letter advertisement stated. "In the past few weeks, I have learned a lifetime of lessons. First and foremost, I need to reorganize my priorities. … To my family, teammates, coaches and fans, I recognize that I have lost the right to ask for your patience and understanding; however, I will do everything in my power to regain your trust and respect."

All of these incidents prompted Goodell to have offseason meetings with various players, personnel and coaches. From those meetings, a player-advisory council consisting of six current NFL players was created. The council will meet on a regular basis throughout the year to discuss such topics as player safety, medical issues and conduct. Broncos cornerback Domonique Foxworth, who is not on the council but did take part in one of the "think tank" meetings with Goodell, says the new policy sends a message.

"It's a stance that the NFL is very stern in off-field behavior and I think that's in concert with how the players feel, how the coaches feel and how the fans feel," Foxworth says. "Too often, I would think most people agree, in sports, off-field stuff can be overlooked if you run fast enough and are strong enough.

"I think the NFL has taken a step in what I believe to be the right direction in where your off-the-field incidents are as important to professional athletes as they are to people with what you consider normal jobs."

## ILLEGAL PROCEDURE



In his letter to both **HENRY** and **JONES**, Goodell told the players their conduct had "brought **EMBARRASSMENT** and ridicule upon yourself, your club and the NFL, and has damaged the reputation of players throughout the league."

## BREAKING AWAY

Last offseason, the NFL saw a quarterback carousel, with 13 signal-callers switching teams. Now the league has running-back roulette, as a number of big-name tailbacks will don new jerseys for the 2007 season. Teams are becoming more reluctant to give huge, long-term contracts to running backs, who historically have one of the shorter shelf lives among all NFL positions due to the constant wear and tear on their bodies. Such was the case with Tennessee and Travis Henry, as the Titans released their top rusher (1,211 yards last season) March 3 rather than pay him an $8.3 million roster bonus that was due two days later.

"I was hoping to be part of what we were starting to build there," Henry told *The Tennessean* shortly after being released and then almost immediately signing a five-year contract with Denver. "I wanted to finish my career [in Tennessee]. It's mixed emotions for me, man."

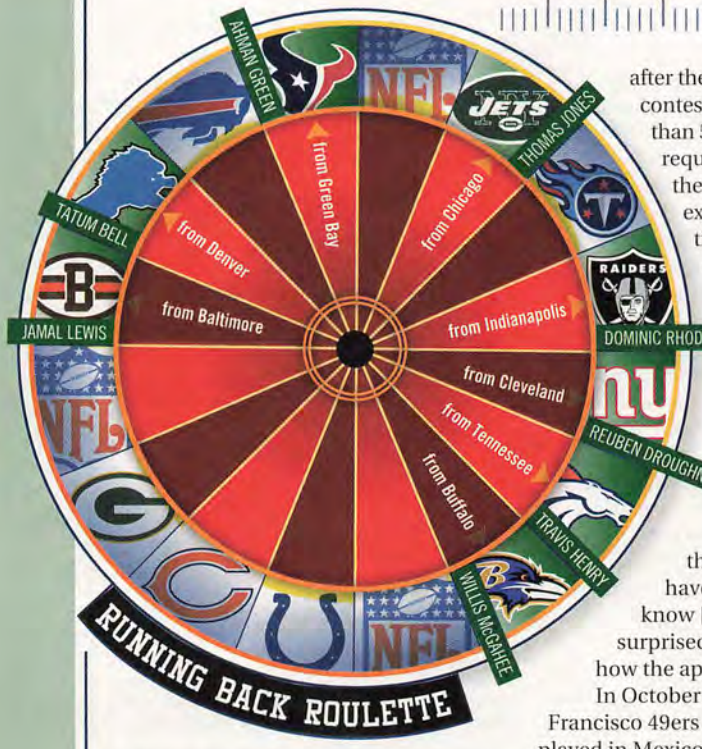
The first nine days of March proved fast and furious for running backs throughout the league, as eight players switched teams during that short span. It started March 1, when Denver traded Tatum Bell to Detroit for cornerback Dré Bly and offensive tackle George Foster. Three days later, Ahman Green left Green Bay and signed a four-year contract with Houston.

Henry inked his deal with Denver the next day and, on March 7, Chicago traded Thomas Jones and its second-round pick this year to the New York Jets for their 2007 second-rounder. That same day, Jamal Lewis, who was released by Baltimore, signed a one-year deal with Cleveland.

The Ravens let Lewis go to make room for Willis McGahee, who was traded from Buffalo for Baltimore's 2007 third- and seventh-round picks, along with next year's third-rounder. Finally, the wheel stopped on March 9 with the New York Giants acquiring Reuben Droughns from Cleveland for receiver Tim Carter, while Oakland signed former Colts running back Dominic Rhodes to a two-year contract.

As more and more teams utilize the two-back approach (for more on this, see page 38), it's causing a big shift in free agency and trades for tailbacks. Even the NFL's leading rusher,

TOP TO BOTTOM: DIPTI VAIDYA / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; TOM SZCZERBOWSKI / WIRE IMAGE.COM




LaDainian Tomlinson, can't rest on his laurels. San Diego's second tailback on the depth chart, Michael Turner, rushed for 502 yards on just 80 carries. He was a restricted free agent, but after making several visits to other teams, he was ultimately re-signed to a one-year deal with the Chargers.

A feature back is becoming more the exception than the rule. So while in past years it would have been a shock to see three of the previous season's top 20 rushers with new teams, it's almost expected now, even if it may not be the most popular choice for the tailbacks.

"It was a situation where I wanted to have an opportunity to do what I'm capable of doing, and that's going somewhere and providing leadership," Jones said shortly after being traded to the Jets. "Cedric Benson and Adrian Peterson, we all were running backs [in Chicago] and we all made plays. ... But in the NFL, sometimes it doesn't go the way that you may think it's going to go, and you just adjust."

## INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

For the first time in league history, the NFL will play a regular-season game outside North America this season as the New York Giants and Miami Dolphins will cross the pond Oct. 28 and match up in London's Wembley Stadium. Interest in the overseas game has been nothing short of overwhelming, and there is more on the horizon, including possible worldwide expansion.

Last October, NFL owners approved a measure that calls for the league to play two games outside of the U.S. for the next five seasons, starting with just the single contest in England this year. And shortly after the Giants-Dolphins contest was announced, more than 500,000 tickets were requested by fans, mainly in the U.K. Organizers easily expected a sellout when tickets went on sale in mid-May.

"What's happened in sort of the last five years is an explosion of the Internet," says Mark Waller, senior vice president of NFL International. "Fans are very aware of what the best product is and have a huge desire to get to know [the NFL] better. What surprised us was the speed of how the applications came in."

In October 2005, the San Francisco 49ers and Arizona Cardinals played in Mexico City's Azteca Stadium for "Fútbol Americano," marking the first non-U.S. regular-season contest for the NFL. The game, won 31-14 by Arizona, drew a league-record 103,467 fans, and set the blueprint for future international contests.

"There was incredible success in the game in Mexico City," Waller says. "That stimulated our interest and we looked at how best we can expand. What's clear is there's a huge awareness in an incredible game. Internationally, there's a real desire to see the best product live."

With the owners' approval, Waller and his staff began working on sites, gauging interest from different venues. Given that Wembley Stadium recently underwent a complete overhaul and now has a capacity of 90,000, it was a perfect fit. As for the teams involved, Waller says it came down to a combination of attraction and viability, with the Dolphins giving up a home game.

"The timing of Wembley Stadium reopening and the size was highly attractive to us," Waller says. "Also, from a brand-image standpoint, we focused hard on teams that had high global appeal and high U.K. appeal. Both [the Giants and Dolphins] are known as marquee teams, and we're working with them to make the event work."

Waller adds that the biggest challenge for the event to prove successful is attempting to treat the game just like any other, especially when it comes to the on-the-field atmosphere. Although there have been several preseason games played overseas, this one will count in the overall standings.

"It's a big logistical challenge, and that's only half of it," Waller says. "Now we have to execute, get the teams over there, practice and get fully prepared. Unlike the preseason, this is a game of huge importance, as the teams are trying to make the playoffs and reach the Super Bowl.

"Internally, we have to execute logistics for the game with a consistent way the game is managed in the U.S., [where] teams feel comfortable with their schedule and routine and therefore there is no competitive disadvantage to play overseas."

Overseas football has had its ups and downs with NFL Europe, which began as the World League of American Football. That league had teams in both North America and Europe before the WLAF's poor finances shut it down after just two seasons. Renamed NFL Europe, six teams now play solely in European cities, with five in Germany. Although franchises in London and Scotland have folded recently, the league set attendance records in its first two weeks of play this season.

"We have to be incredibly committed and dedicated to building the business from the grassroots up," says Waller of NFL Europe, which has a contract with the NFL through 2009. "It doesn't happen overnight. There's a real commitment requirement from us, and we need to do as much as we can to engage fans locally."

> Fans are very aware of what the **BEST PRODUCT** is and have a huge desire to get to know [the NFL] better. What surprised us was the speed of how the applications came in.
>
> —Mark Waller
> Senior Vice President of NFL International

At the league's annual meeting of sports editors in New York the day before the NFL Draft, Commissioner Roger Goodell mentioned the possibility of playing the Super Bowl overseas sometime down the road. And with the success in Mexico City and high interest in London, there has also been speculation of starting an NFL franchise outside of the U.S.

"I believe that the demand and interest is there already, but I'm slightly more impatient than others on that point," Waller says. "I don't have a time frame for it, but if we can sustain and grow interest after [this year's] game and engage sponsors, fans and media, I think we're one of the few sports that can."

SEAN RYAN / WIRE IMAGE.COM

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# Fantasy Report

## 5 simple rules

In fantasy football, it's often best to know what not to do. Here's a list with no do's and lots of don'ts.

**By Matt McKenzie**
*Street & Smith's* Staff Writer

The popularity of fantasy football has grown to mountainous proportions. Last year, ESPN devoted a 30-minute program on its sister network, ESPN2, titled "The Fantasy Show," during which analysts gave recommendations on players to start and sit during each week.

A study done last year by the Chicago-based consulting group of Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc., estimated that American workers spend an average of 10 minutes each workday researching and/or updating their fantasy football team. We think 10 minutes may be a little on the low end, but that's another story.

LARRY JOHNSON, RB

No matter how much (or little) time owners devote to their team, there is always one constant in fantasy football—it's a combination of skill and luck. It doesn't matter who you listen to, what you watch or even the magazines you buy. No one can predict injuries or any other outside factors (like having players from the Bengals on your team). Fantasy owners can win their league one year, then turn around and finish dead last the next (trust us, this happens).

By now, even the average fantasy player knows simple things to do in order to be competitive, such as drafting running backs early and often. But what about things to avoid during a fantasy draft? Follow (or rather, don't) these five tips and you could be well on your way to a fantasy championship, provided this is the year luck is on your side as well.

### Don't be stupid

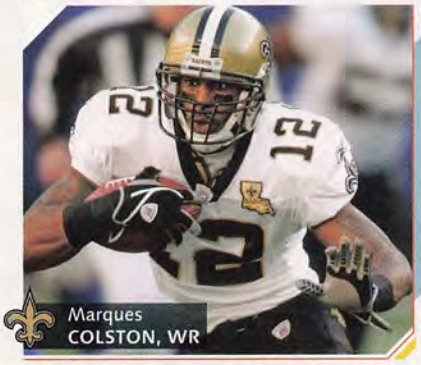
Three simple words to follow, but they mean so much. Aside from the obvious (stock up on running backs, etc.), make sure and look at the little things, such as bye weeks for each player. Too often an owner will draft two starters at a position, only to find out both of them are off on the same week. That leads to scrambling, and, more often than not, a loss. Also take note of players in contract years (Larry Johnson and Bernard Berrian, for instance) and offseason happenings, like the situation in Minnesota, where Chester Taylor's workload is sure to be decreased with the addition of rookie Adrian Peterson.

### Don't forget to know your scoring system

Every fantasy league is different. Some group special teams and defense together (if so, Chicago is worth taking in a middle round, thanks to Devin Hester), others count everyone as individual players. Many leagues downplay the quarterback position, giving them only four points for a touchdown rather than the six given to running backs and wideouts. Also, leagues vary on awarding points to receivers, as some give a point for each catch made. Factor in how your league scores when drafting.

### Don't take too many chances

It's hard to know which previously obscure players are going to break out, but it happens every year, as it did in 2006 with Marques Colston, who went


Marques COLSTON, WR

from a seventh-round NFL Draft pick to Offensive Rookie of the Year runner-up. Every fantasy owner wants to find that diamond in the rough, but make sure to have your three main positions (QB, RB, WR) filled and stocked with backups before saying you "have a feeling" about Troy Smith or Michael Bush.

### Don't let your heart lead you

So you're known as "Bears SuperFan," which includes season tickets for life, an authentic Brian Urlacher No. 54 jersey and even the sweater vest popularized by Mike Ditka circa 1985. Does that mean you should go draft Rex Grossman as your starting fantasy quarterback? Not if you want to win. Put allegiances aside when choosing your team, no matter how much you dislike Peyton Manning or Tom Brady.

### Don't choose a defense or kicker until a round that ends in "teen"

Some may say wait until the final two rounds to choose both, and that's not bad advice either. No matter what, a kicker should be your final pick. Kickers aren't going to get you the same amount of points anywhere near what another position player would. The defenses of Baltimore and Chicago can be an exception to this rule, given the ability of both to rack up fantasy points. However, those are the only two. Otherwise, load up on scoring position players and laugh when someone chooses Adam Vinatieri in the 11th round.

(L TO R): WALTER DIXON; SPORTSCHROME

## TOP 5 ROOKIES

**1 Adrian Peterson RB, *Minnesota***
Even though he'll be platooned in Minnesota with Chester Taylor, Peterson has a great chance to make a big fantasy impact. His breakaway speed and ability to create the big play equals a good amount of playing time for Peterson. The Vikings will hope Taylor/Peterson turn into the new McAllister/Bush.

**2 Marshawn Lynch RB, *Buffalo***
Unlike Peterson, Lynch will likely get the majority of carries in Buffalo, which traded away Pro Bowler Willis McGahee in the offseason. Lynch should easily be able to beat out Anthony Thomas for the starting tailback job in training camp, and seemingly would be a solid No. 2 fantasy tailback.

**3 Calvin Johnson WR, *Detroit*** Yes, once again a supposed "can't-miss" wideout prospect heads to Detroit. But unlike Mike Williams or Charles Rogers, Johnson will match the hype with solid production on the board. He'll be an immediate starter and put up decent fantasy numbers, especially when teams leave him in one-on-one coverage to double-team Roy Williams.

**4 Dwayne Bowe WR, *Kansas City*** Thanks to a strong offseason leading up to the NFL Draft, Bowe improved his stock more than any other player. And he's got a great fit in Kansas City, which desperately needs a young wide receiver to play alongside Eddie Kennison. Bowe's size makes him a great red-zone target, though he won't put up the same yardage as Johnson.

**5 Steve Smith WR, *New York Giants*** Is there room in the NFL for two Steve Smiths? This rookie has a ways to go to reach the Panthers Pro Bowler, but could become a mainstay in the Giants' starting lineup down the road. Smith may see earlier playing time if Amani Toomer isn't fully recovered from last season's torn ACL.

## 5 SLEEPERS TO WATCH

**1 Cedric Benson RB, *Chicago*** Even though he's started just one game in his career, the Bears have enough faith in Benson that they were willing to ship 1,200-yard rusher Thomas Jones to the Jets. Chicago likes to pound the ball on the ground, and if Benson can avoid injuries, he's a solid No. 2 fantasy running back.

**2 Matt Schaub QB, *Houston*** The good news: After having to wait behind Michael Vick for the last three years, Schaub finally gets a chance to be a full-time starting quarterback. The bad news: He's going to Houston, where the offensive line has been known to not always protect the quarterback (ask David Carr, who got quite the view of Reliant Stadium's ceiling during his time with the Texans). If Schaub gets time, he's got a strong arm, a ton of potential and is worth a middle- to late-round pick.

**3 D.J. Hackett WR, *Seattle*** Despite having experienced receivers in Bobby Engram and Nate Burleson on the roster, it's Hackett who is slated to replace the departed Darrell Jackson in Seattle. The third-year pro had 45 catches for 610 yards and four TDs last year, and the increase in playing time has the makings of Hackett putting up career numbers.

**4 Devery Henderson WR, *New Orleans*** Henderson turned heads with his big plays in limited time last season, as eight of his 32 catches went for 40 yards or more. With Joe Horn off to Atlanta, Henderson becomes the No. 2 guy in New Orleans and will see increased numbers in the Saints' high-powered offense.

**5 LenDale White RB, *Tennessee*** Rather than pay an $8.3 million bonus, Tennessee decided to waive Travis Henry in the offseason, which in turn made White the most experienced running back on the Titans' roster despite just a year of NFL service. The former USC star is a bruising back who will be productive around the goal line, which is always great for fantasy owners.

## 5 POTENTIAL BUSTS TO AVOID

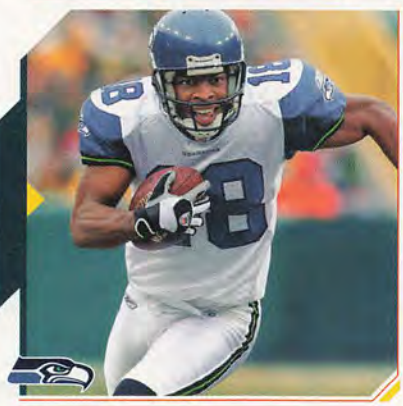
**1 Rex Grossman QB, *Chicago*** He should be no more than an emergency reserve when it comes to fantasy football. Grossman finished with a negative fantasy-point total in four of his 16 games last season. And with Brian Griese still on the Bears' roster, there's always a chance Grossman will get yanked sometime during the season.

**2 Leon Washington RB, *New York Jets*** While most of the Jets' faithful welcomed the trade of Thomas Jones with open arms, Washington likely was not as happy. After being named the starting tailback midway through the season, Washington led the Jets with 650 rushing yards and added four TDs. However, the addition of Jones (who's rushed for at least 1,200 yards the past two seasons) means Washington will be seeing more of the bench than the field.

**3 DeShaun Foster RB, *Carolina*** The Panthers cut Stephen Davis last offseason and gave Foster a chance to become their every-down back. However, the sixth-year pro did little to impress, finishing with just three rushing TDs. He's currently being pushed by second-year man DeAngelo Williams, and word out of Carolina is that Foster will go back to playing second fiddle in favor of youth and speed.

**4 Rod Smith WR, *Denver*** After recording at least 1,100 yards in each of the previous two seasons, Smith's production was cut in half with just 512 in 2006. Smith will be entering his 13th season and may lose time as the Broncos' No. 2 receiver in favor of up-and-coming wideout Brandon Marshall. He's a good reserve to have in bye weeks, but nothing else.

**5 Ashley Lelie WR, *San Francisco*** He totaled career highs of 1,084 receiving yards and seven TDs in 2004, but has combined for just 1,200 yards and two TDs in the two years since. Nagging injuries and the fact Lelie will be playing for his third team in as many years makes him one to pass on during fantasy drafts.



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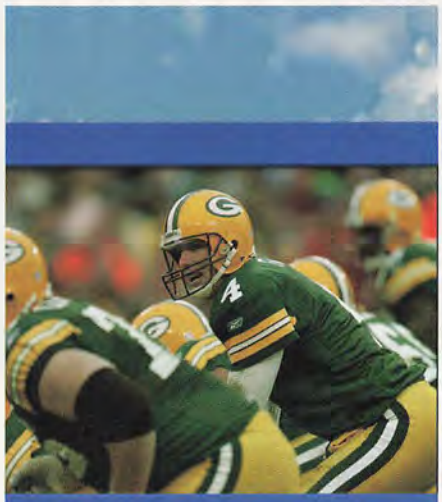

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# CHEAT SHEET

Steven JACKSON

Steve SMITH

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## TOP 50 QUARTERBACKS

| RANK | NAME | TEAM | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Manning, Peyton | IND | 329.4 |
| 2 | Brady, Tom | NE | 304.5 |
| 3 | Palmer, Carson | CIN | 300.7 |
| 4 | Brees, Drew | NO | 296.6 |
| 5 | Bulger, Marc | STL | 291.5 |
| 6 | Vick, Michael | ATL | 288.5 |
| 7 | Kitna, Jon | DET | 276.9 |
| 8 | Young, Vince | TEN | 271.4 |
| 9 | Romo, Tony | DAL | 258.1 |
| 10 | McNabb, Donovan | PHI | 257.1 |
| 11 | Roethlisberger, Ben | PIT | 254.6 |
| 12 | Manning, Eli | NYG | 253.0 |
| 13 | Leinart, Matt | ARI | 251.4 |
| 14 | Rivers, Philip | SD | 250.7 |
| 15 | Hasselbeck, Matt | SEA | 246.5 |
| 16 | Favre, Brett | GB | 241.5 |
| 17 | Cutler, Jay | DEN | 240.3 |
| 18 | Smith, Alex | SF | 235.5 |
| 19 | Delhomme, Jake | CAR | 235.2 |
| 20 | Losman, J.P. | BUF | 234.5 |
| 21 | McNair, Steve | BAL | 231.8 |
| 22 | Huard, Damon | KC | 227.9 |
| 23 | Campbell, Jason | WAS | 224.8 |
| 24 | Green, Trent | KC | 220.0 |
| 25 | Pennington, Chad | NYJ | 219.0 |
| 26 | Grossman, Rex | CHI | 218.9 |
| 27 | Jackson, Tarvaris | MIN | 209.8 |
| 28 | Schaub, Matt | HOU | 204.5 |
| 29 | Leftwich, Byron | JAX | 203.0 |
| 30 | Simms, Chris | TB | 172.2 |
| 31 | Russell, JaMarcus | OAK | 155.0 |
| 32 | Frye, Charlie | CLE | 149.0 |
| 33 | Quinn, Brady | CLE | 62.1 |
| 34 | Garcia, Jeff | TB | 50.1 |
| 35 | Garrard, David | JAX | 44.9 |
| 36 | Walter, Andrew | OAK | 40.5 |
| 37 | Feeley, A.J. | PHI | 40.1 |
| 38 | Brunell, Mark | WAS | 28.3 |
| 39 | Boller, Kyle | BAL | 28.0 |
| 40 | Anderson, Derek | CLE | 27.1 |
| 41 | Batch, Charlie | PIT | 26.7 |
| 42 | Wallace, Seneca | SEA | 26.7 |
| 43 | Bollinger, Brooks | MIN | 26.6 |
| 44 | Johnson, Brad | DAL | 26.5 |
| 45 | Ramsey, Patrick | DEN | 26.1 |
| 46 | Harrington, Joey | ATL | 24.5 |
| 47 | Carr, David | CAR | 23.5 |
| 48 | McCown, Josh | OAK | 19.1 |
| 49 | Clemens, Kellen | NYJ | 18.2 |
| 50 | Warner, Kurt | ARI | 18.1 |

## TOP 50 RUNNING BACKS

| RANK | NAME | TEAM | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Tomlinson, LaDainian | SD | 339.2 |
| 2 | Johnson, Larry | KC | 311.3 |
| 3 | Jackson, Steven | STL | 293.4 |
| 4 | Gore, Frank | SF | 258.8 |
| 5 | Westbrook, Brian | PHI | 258.5 |
| 6 | Parker, Willie | PIT | 251.5 |
| 7 | Addai, Joseph | IND | 234.0 |
| 8 | Johnson, Rudi | CIN | 220.0 |
| 9 | Alexander, Shaun | SEA | 212.1 |
| 10 | Bush, Reggie | NO | 209.8 |
| 11 | Maroney, Laurence | NE | 208.1 |
| 12 | Portis, Clinton | WAS | 200.5 |
| 13 | Jones-Drew, Maurice | JAX | 195.8 |
| 14 | James, Edgerrin | ARI | 194.4 |
| 15 | Brown, Ronnie | MIA | 191.6 |
| 16 | Henry, Travis | DEN | 184.0 |
| 17 | McGahee, Willis | BAL | 171.9 |
| 18 | McAllister, Deuce | NO | 166.3 |
| 19 | Green, Ahman | HOU | 159.7 |
| 20 | Barber, Marion | DAL | 159.4 |
| 21 | Benson, Cedric | CHI | 152.5 |
| 22 | Taylor, Fred | JAX | 149.3 |
| 23 | Dunn, Warrick | ATL | 147.2 |
| 24 | Peterson, Adrian | MIN | 146.8 |
| 25 | Jones, Thomas | NYJ | 143.7 |
| 26 | Jacobs, Brandon | NYG | 137.8 |
| 27 | Williams, DeAngelo | CAR | 137.7 |
| 28 | Jones, Julius | DAL | 135.2 |
| 29 | Jones, Kevin | DET | 135.1 |
| 30 | Droughns, Reuben | NYG | 134.0 |
| 31 | Lewis, Jamal | CLE | 132.6 |
| 32 | Williams, Carnell | TB | 132.4 |
| 33 | White, LenDale | TEN | 131.3 |
| 34 | Lynch, Marshawn | BUF | 128.5 |
| 35 | Taylor, Chester | MIN | 127.1 |
| 36 | Bell, Mike | DEN | 118.1 |
| 37 | Bell, Tatum | DET | 112.0 |
| 38 | Washington, Leon | NYJ | 111.9 |
| 39 | Betts, Ladell | WAS | 109.4 |
| 40 | Foster, DeShaun | CAR | 109.1 |
| 41 | Morency, Vernand | GB | 107.3 |
| 42 | Norwood, Jerious | ATL | 107.2 |
| 43 | Jordan, LaMont | OAK | 89.3 |
| 44 | Turner, Michael | SD | 82.4 |
| 45 | Lundy, Wali | HOU | 77.9 |
| 46 | Buckhalter, Correll | PHI | 76.7 |
| 47 | Peterson, Adrian | CHI | 74.7 |
| 48 | Pittman, Michael | TB | 68.7 |
| 49 | Rhodes, Dominic | OAK | 66.4 |
| 50 | Faulk, Kevin | NE | 64.1 |

## TOP 50 WIDE RECEIVERS

| RANK | NAME | TEAM | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Johnson, Chad | CIN | 203.5 |
| 2 | Smith, Steve | CAR | 198.9 |
| 3 | Wayne, Reggie | IND | 191.1 |
| 4 | Holt, Torry | STL | 182.2 |
| 5 | Harrison, Marvin | IND | 179.9 |
| 6 | Owens, Terrell | DAL | 173.2 |
| 7 | Houshmandzadeh, T.J. | CIN | 171.7 |
| 8 | Walker, Javon | DEN | 170.6 |
| 9 | Fitzgerald, Larry | ARI | 168.6 |
| 10 | Driver, Donald | GB | 167.9 |
| 11 | Evans, Lee | BUF | 166.6 |
| 12 | Williams, Roy | DET | 166.5 |
| 13 | Boldin, Anquan | ARI | 161.0 |
| 14 | Colston, Marques | NO | 159.0 |
| 15 | Johnson, Andre | HOU | 154.8 |
| 16 | Burress, Plaxico | NYG | 153.4 |
| 17 | Moss, Randy | NE | 150.7 |
| 18 | Chambers, Chris | MIA | 149.9 |
| 19 | Edwards, Braylon | CLE | 147.9 |
| 20 | Branch, Deion | SEA | 145.3 |
| 21 | Ward, Hines | PIT | 145.0 |
| 22 | Moss, Santana | WAS | 144.4 |
| 23 | Galloway, Joey | TB | 140.9 |
| 24 | Jackson, Darrell | SF | 137.9 |
| 25 | Coles, Laveranues | NYJ | 135.3 |
| 26 | Clayton, Mark | BAL | 134.8 |
| 27 | Glenn, Terry | DAL | 128.9 |
| 28 | Berrian, Bernard | CHI | 124.5 |
| 29 | Hackett, D.J. | SEA | 122.0 |
| 30 | Cotchery, Jerricho | NYJ | 118.4 |
| 31 | Brown, Reggie | PHI | 116.6 |
| 32 | Bruce, Isaac | STL | 115.8 |
| 33 | Stallworth, Donté | NE | 114.5 |
| 34 | Johnson, Calvin | DET | 114.4 |
| 35 | Jackson, Vincent | SD | 112.2 |
| 36 | Holmes, Santonio | PIT | 110.5 |
| 37 | Jennings, Greg | GB | 106.6 |
| 38 | Porter, Jerry | OAK | 105.6 |
| 39 | Kennison, Eddie | KC | 99.8 |
| 40 | Henderson, Devery | NO | 97.2 |
| 41 | Jones, Brandon | TEN | 95.6 |
| 42 | Mason, Derrick | BAL | 93.2 |
| 43 | Williams, Reggie | JAX | 92.1 |
| 44 | Jones, Matt | JAX | 91.7 |
| 45 | Marshall, Brandon | DEN | 91.3 |
| 46 | Bennett, Drew | STL | 87.9 |
| 47 | Battle, Arnaz | SF | 85.4 |
| 48 | Muhammad, Muhsin | CHI | 84.7 |
| 49 | Williamson, Troy | MIN | 84.7 |
| 50 | Carter, Drew | CAR | 84.4 |

## TOP 30 TIGHT ENDS

| RANK | NAME | TEAM | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Gates, Antonio | SD | 152.8 |
| 2 | Gonzalez, Tony | KC | 120.0 |
| 3 | Shockey, Jeremy | NYG | 120.0 |
| 4 | Heap, Todd | BAL | 116.3 |
| 5 | Winslow, Kellen | CLE | 109.2 |
| 6 | Crumpler, Alge | ATL | 102.2 |
| 7 | Cooley, Chris | WAS | 99.3 |
| 8 | Witten, Jason | DAL | 97.1 |
| 9 | Smith, L.J. | PHI | 87.8 |
| 10 | Miller, Heath | PIT | 72.6 |
| 11 | Davis, Vernon | SF | 72.4 |
| 12 | Watson, Benjamin | NE | 67.4 |
| 13 | Clark, Dallas | IND | 63.5 |
| 14 | Daniels, Owen | HOU | 60.0 |
| 15 | Clark, Desmond | CHI | 56.4 |
| 16 | Baker, Chris | NYJ | 54.0 |
| 17 | McMichael, Randy | STL | 47.1 |
| 18 | Troupe, Ben | TEN | 45.0 |
| 19 | Graham, Daniel | DEN | 44.0 |
| 20 | Stevens, Jerramy | TB | 43.8 |
| 21 | Lewis, Marcedes | JAX | 43.4 |
| 22 | Pollard, Marcus | SEA | 41.9 |
| 23 | Olsen, Greg | CHI | 41.5 |
| 24 | Scheffler, Tony | DEN | 41.1 |
| 25 | Utecht, Ben | IND | 39.5 |
| 26 | Scaife, Bo | TEN | 36.0 |
| 27 | Smith, Alex | TB | 34.2 |
| 28 | Wrighster, George | JAX | 33.7 |
| 29 | Heiden, Steve | CLE | 33.3 |
| 30 | Martin, David | MIA | 32.7 |

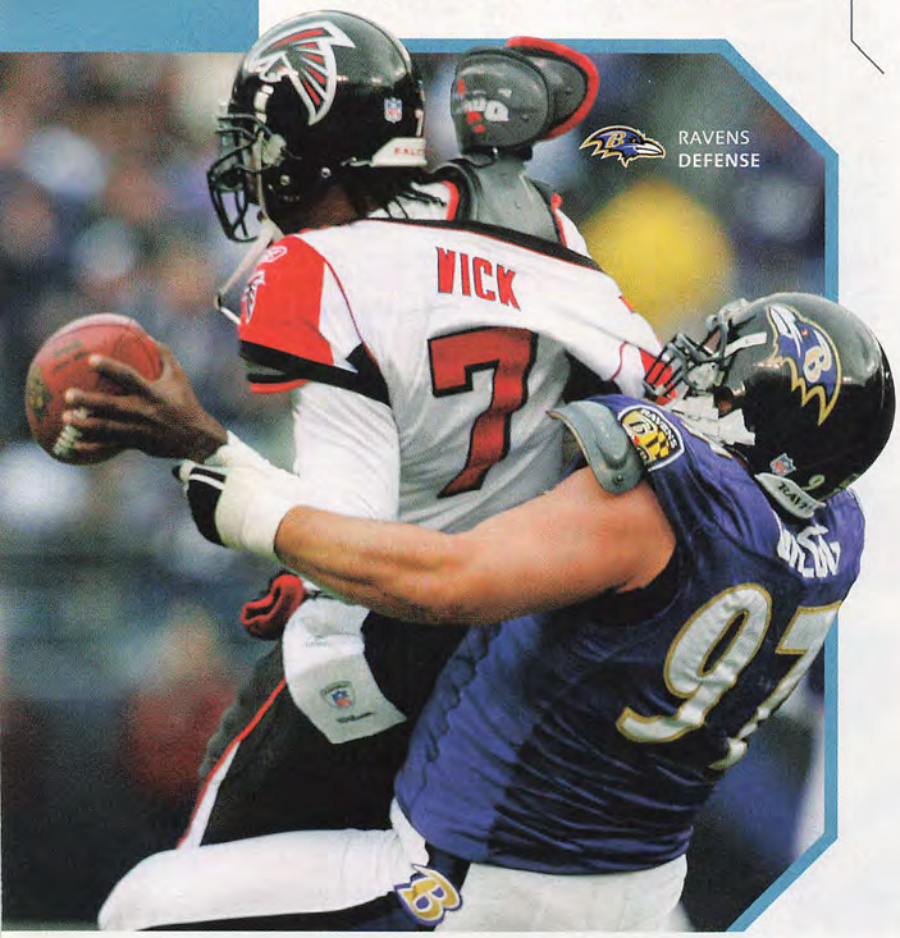
TOP (L TO R): KEVIN REECE; JOHN SOMMERS / ICON SMI. OPPOSITE PAGE: JUSTIN KASE CONDER / US PRESSWIRE

## TOP 32 KICKERS

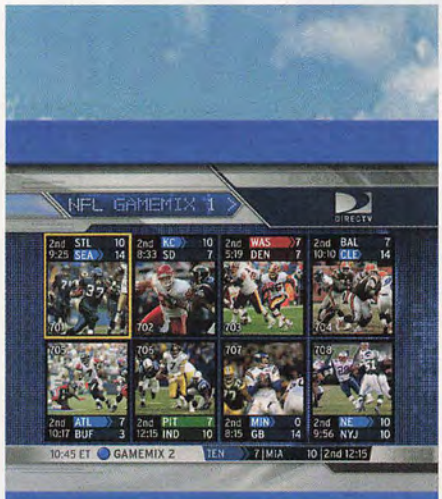
| RANK | NAME | TEAM |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Vinatieri, Adam | IND |
| 2 | Graham, Shayne | CIN |
| 3 | Kaeding, Nate | SD |
| 4 | Elam, Jason | DEN |
| 5 | Wilkins, Jeff | STL |
| 6 | Akers, David | PHI |
| 7 | Gostkowski, Stephen | NE |
| 8 | Gould, Robbie | CHI |
| 9 | Rackers, Neil | ARI |
| 10 | Brown, Josh | SEA |
| 11 | Stover, Matt | BAL |
| 12 | Scobee, Josh | JAX |
| 13 | Hanson, Jason | DET |
| 14 | Mare, Olindo | NO |
| 15 | Kasay, John | CAR |
| 16 | Reed, Jeff | PIT |
| 17 | Feely, Jay | MIA |
| 18 | Nedney, Joe | SF |
| 19 | Nugent, Mike | NYJ |
| 20 | Bironas, Rob | TEN |
| 21 | Longwell, Ryan | MIN |
| 22 | Crosby, Mason | GB |
| 23 | Lindell, Rian | BUF |
| 24 | Bryant, Matt | TB |
| 25 | Janikowski, Sebastian | OAK |
| 26 | Dawson, Phil | CLE |
| 27 | Gramatica, Martin | DAL |
| 28 | Brown, Kris | HOU |
| 29 | Tynes, Lawrence | KC |
| 30 | Huston, Josh | NYG |
| 31 | Medlock, Justin | KC |
| 32 | Elling, Aaron | ATL |

## TOP 32 DEFENSES

| RANK | NAME |
|---|---|
| 1 | Chicago Bears |
| 2 | Baltimore Ravens |
| 3 | San Diego Chargers |
| 4 | Pittsburgh Steelers |
| 5 | New England Patriots |
| 6 | Jacksonville Jaguars |
| 7 | Carolina Panthers |
| 8 | Denver Broncos |
| 9 | Philadelphia Eagles |
| 10 | Dallas Cowboys |
| 11 | Miami Dolphins |
| 12 | Green Bay Packers |
| 13 | Oakland Raiders |
| 14 | New York Jets |
| 15 | Minnesota Vikings |
| 16 | Atlanta Falcons |
| 17 | Seattle Seahawks |
| 18 | Cincinnati Bengals |
| 19 | Tampa Bay Buccaneers |
| 20 | Indianapolis Colts |
| 21 | Arizona Cardinals |
| 22 | Buffalo Bills |
| 23 | New Orleans Saints |
| 24 | New York Giants |
| 25 | Kansas City Chiefs |
| 26 | San Francisco 49ers |
| 27 | Washington Redskins |
| 28 | Tennessee Titans |
| 29 | Cleveland Browns |
| 30 | St. Louis Rams |
| 31 | Detroit Lions |
| 32 | Houston Texans |





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# TOP 200

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LaDainian **TOMLINSON**

2006 STATS

| RUSH | REC | TD |
|---|---|---|
| 1815 | 508 | 31 |

1 RB1 › SD

Larry **JOHNSON**

2006 STATS

| RUSH | REC | TD |
|---|---|---|
| 1789 | 410 | 19 |

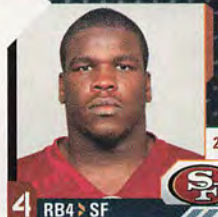
2 RB2 › KC

Steven **JACKSON**

2006 STATS

| RUSH | REC | TD |
|---|---|---|
| 1528 | 806 | 16 |

3 RB3 › STL

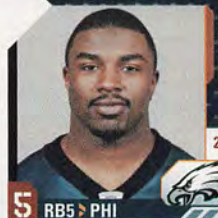


Frank **GORE**

2006 STATS

| RUSH | REC | TD |
|---|---|---|
| 1695 | 485 | 9 |

4 RB4 › SF

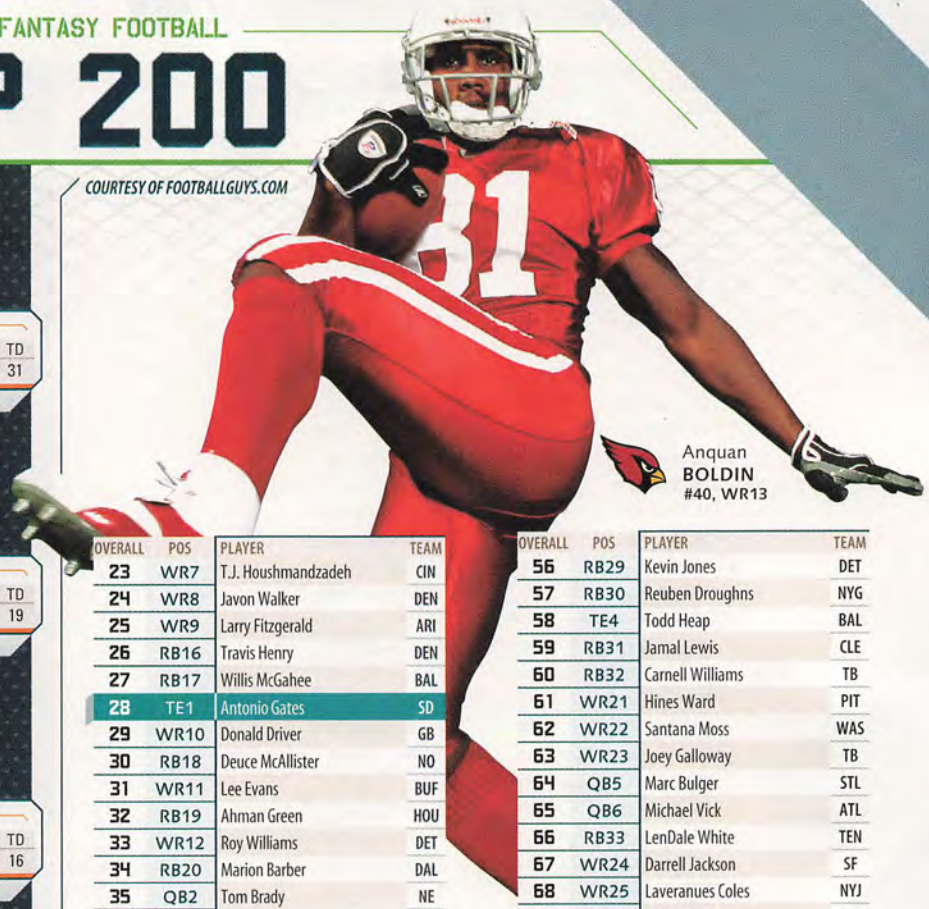


Brian **WESTBROOK**

2006 STATS

| RUSH | REC | TD |
|---|---|---|
| 1217 | 699 | 11 |

5 RB5 › PHI



Anquan **BOLDIN**
#40, WR13

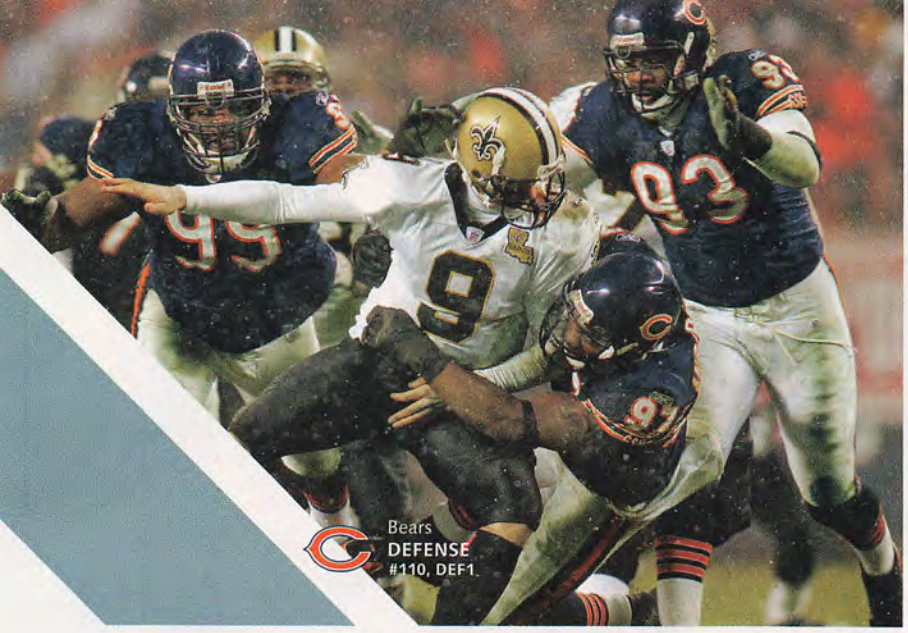
| OVERALL | POS | PLAYER | TEAM |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | RB6 | Willie Parker | PIT |
| 7 | RB7 | Joseph Addai | IND |
| 8 | RB8 | Rudi Johnson | CIN |
| 9 | RB9 | Shaun Alexander | SEA |
| 10 | QB1 | Peyton Manning | IND |
| 11 | WR1 | Chad Johnson | CIN |
| 12 | WR2 | Steve Smith | CAR |
| 13 | RB10 | Reggie Bush | NO |
| 14 | RB11 | Laurence Maroney | NE |
| 15 | WR3 | Reggie Wayne | IND |
| 16 | RB12 | Clinton Portis | WAS |
| 17 | WR4 | Torry Holt | STL |
| 18 | RB13 | Maurice Jones-Drew | JAX |
| 19 | WR5 | Marvin Harrison | IND |
| 20 | WR6 | Terrell Owens | DAL |
| 21 | RB14 | Edgerrin James | ARI |
| 22 | RB15 | Ronnie Brown | MIA |

| OVERALL | POS | PLAYER | TEAM |
|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | WR7 | T.J. Houshmandzadeh | CIN |
| 24 | WR8 | Javon Walker | DEN |
| 25 | WR9 | Larry Fitzgerald | ARI |
| 26 | RB16 | Travis Henry | DEN |
| 27 | RB17 | Willis McGahee | BAL |
| 28 | TE1 | Antonio Gates | SD |
| 29 | WR10 | Donald Driver | GB |
| 30 | RB18 | Deuce McAllister | NO |
| 31 | WR11 | Lee Evans | BUF |
| 32 | RB19 | Ahman Green | HOU |
| 33 | WR12 | Roy Williams | DET |
| 34 | RB20 | Marion Barber | DAL |
| 35 | QB2 | Tom Brady | NE |
| 36 | RB21 | Cedric Benson | CHI |
| 37 | RB22 | Fred Taylor | JAX |
| 38 | QB3 | Carson Palmer | CIN |
| 39 | RB23 | Warrick Dunn | ATL |
| 40 | WR13 | Anquan Boldin | ARI |
| 41 | WR14 | Marques Colston | NO |
| 42 | QB4 | Drew Brees | NO |
| 43 | WR15 | Andre Johnson | HOU |
| 44 | WR16 | Plaxico Burress | NYG |
| 45 | WR17 | Randy Moss | NE |
| 46 | RB24 | Adrian Peterson | MIN |
| 47 | WR18 | Chris Chambers | MIA |
| 48 | RB25 | Thomas Jones | NYJ |
| 49 | RB26 | Brandon Jacobs | NYG |
| 50 | RB27 | DeAngelo Williams | CAR |
| 51 | WR19 | Braylon Edwards | CLE |
| 52 | RB28 | Julius Jones | DAL |
| 53 | TE2 | Tony Gonzalez | KC |
| 54 | TE3 | Jeremy Shockey | NYG |
| 55 | WR20 | Deion Branch | SEA |

Donovan **McNABB**
#90, QB10

| OVERALL | POS | PLAYER | TEAM |
|---|---|---|---|
| 56 | RB29 | Kevin Jones | DET |
| 57 | RB30 | Reuben Droughns | NYG |
| 58 | TE4 | Todd Heap | BAL |
| 59 | RB31 | Jamal Lewis | CLE |
| 60 | RB32 | Carnell Williams | TB |
| 61 | WR21 | Hines Ward | PIT |
| 62 | WR22 | Santana Moss | WAS |
| 63 | WR23 | Joey Galloway | TB |
| 64 | QB5 | Marc Bulger | STL |
| 65 | QB6 | Michael Vick | ATL |
| 66 | RB33 | LenDale White | TEN |
| 67 | WR24 | Darrell Jackson | SF |
| 68 | WR25 | Laveranues Coles | NYJ |
| 69 | WR26 | Mark Clayton | BAL |
| 70 | RB34 | Marshawn Lynch | BUF |
| 71 | QB7 | Jon Kitna | DET |
| 72 | WR27 | Terry Glenn | DAL |
| 73 | RB35 | Chester Taylor | MIN |
| 74 | WR28 | Bernard Berrian | CHI |
| 75 | WR29 | D.J. Hackett | SEA |
| 76 | RB36 | Mike Bell | DEN |
| 77 | WR30 | Jerricho Cotchery | NYJ |
| 78 | QB8 | Vince Young | TEN |
| 79 | RB37 | Tatum Bell | DET |
| 80 | QB9 | Tony Romo | DAL |
| 81 | RB38 | Leon Washington | NYJ |
| 82 | TE5 | Kellen Winslow | CLE |
| 83 | WR31 | Reggie Brown | PHI |
| 84 | RB39 | Ladell Betts | WAS |
| 85 | TE6 | Alge Crumpler | ATL |
| 86 | WR32 | Isaac Bruce | STL |
| 87 | WR33 | Donté Stallworth | NE |
| 88 | WR34 | Calvin Johnson | DET |
| 89 | WR35 | Vincent Jackson | SD |
| 90 | QB10 | Donovan McNabb | PHI |
| 91 | WR36 | Santonio Holmes | PIT |
| 92 | QB11 | Ben Roethlisberger | PIT |
| 93 | RB40 | DeShaun Foster | CAR |
| 94 | WR37 | Greg Jennings | GB |
| 95 | QB12 | Eli Manning | NYG |
| 96 | WR38 | Jerry Porter | OAK |
| 97 | RB41 | Vernand Morency | GB |
| 98 | TE7 | Chris Cooley | WAS |
| 99 | WR39 | Eddie Kennison | KC |
| 100 | RB42 | Jerious Norwood | ATL |
| 101 | WR40 | Devery Henderson | NO |
| 102 | WR41 | Brandon Jones | TEN |
| 103 | QB13 | Matt Leinart | ARI |
| 104 | TE8 | Jason Witten | DAL |
| 105 | WR42 | Derrick Mason | BAL |
| 106 | RB43 | LaMont Jordan | OAK |

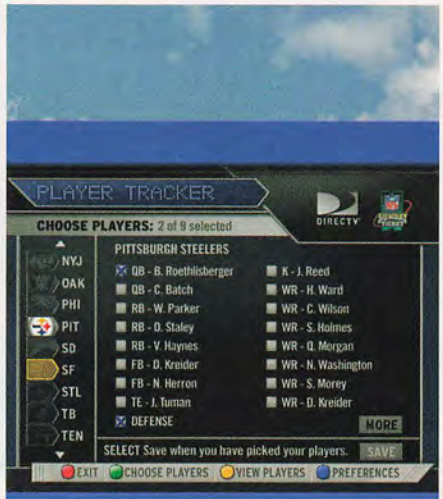
CLOCKWISE: HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL; DONALD MIRALLE / GETTY IMAGES; STEVE MOORE




| OVERALL | POS | PLAYER | TEAM |
|---|---|---|---|
| 107 | QB14 | Philip Rivers | SD |
| 108 | WR43 | Reggie Williams | JAX |
| 109 | TE9 | L.J. Smith | PHI |
| 110 | DEF1 | Chicago Bears | CHI |
| 111 | TE10 | Heath Miller | PIT |
| 112 | QB15 | Matt Hasselbeck | SEA |
| 113 | WR44 | Matt Jones | JAX |
| 114 | RB44 | Michael Turner | SD |
| 115 | QB16 | Brett Favre | GB |
| 116 | WR45 | Brandon Marshall | DEN |
| 117 | QB17 | Jay Cutler | DEN |
| 118 | WR46 | Drew Bennett | STL |
| 119 | RB45 | Wali Lundy | HOU |
| 120 | TE11 | Vernon Davis | SF |
| 121 | QB18 | Alex Smith | SF |
| 122 | WR47 | Arnaz Battle | SF |
| 123 | DEF2 | Baltimore Ravens | BAL |
| 124 | TE12 | Benjamin Watson | NE |
| 125 | RB46 | Correll Buckhalter | PHI |
| 126 | WR48 | Muhsin Muhammad | CHI |
| 127 | QB19 | Jake Delhomme | CAR |
| 128 | WR49 | Troy Williamson | MIN |
| 129 | RB47 | Adrian Peterson | CHI |
| 130 | QB20 | J.P. Losman | BUF |
| 131 | WR50 | Drew Carter | CAR |
| 132 | DEF3 | San Diego Chargers | SD |
| 133 | WR51 | Marty Booker | MIA |
| 134 | QB21 | Steve McNair | BAL |
| 135 | TE13 | Dallas Clark | IND |
| 136 | RB48 | Michael Pittman | TB |
| 137 | WR52 | Michael Jenkins | ATL |
| 138 | RB49 | Dominic Rhodes | OAK |
| 139 | QB22 | Damon Huard | KC |
| 140 | WR53 | Nate Washington | PIT |
| 141 | TE14 | Owen Daniels | HOU |
| 142 | DEF4 | Pittsburgh Steelers | PIT |
| 143 | WR54 | Dwayne Bowe | KC |
| 144 | QB23 | Jason Campbell | WAS |
| 145 | PK1 | Adam Vinatieri | IND |
| 146 | RB50 | Kevin Faulk | NE |
| 147 | TE15 | Desmond Clark | CHI |
| 148 | WR55 | Kevin Curtis | PHI |
| 149 | QB24 | Trent Green | KC |
| 150 | WR56 | Steve Smith | NYG |
| 151 | RB51 | Brandon Jackson | GB |
| 152 | WR57 | Ted Ginn Jr. | MIA |
| 153 | PK2 | Shayne Graham | CIN |

| OVERALL | POS | PLAYER | TEAM |
|---|---|---|---|
| 154 | QB25 | Chad Pennington | NYJ |
| 155 | RB52 | Anthony Thomas | BUF |
| 156 | WR58 | Sidney Rice | MIN |
| 157 | DEF5 | New England Patriots | NE |
| 158 | PK3 | Nate Kaeding | SD |
| 159 | QB26 | Rex Grossman | CHI |
| 160 | WR59 | Mike Furrey | DET |
| 161 | RB53 | Chris Brown | FA |
| 162 | WR60 | Ronald Curry | OAK |
| 163 | PK4 | Jason Elam | DEN |
| 164 | QB27 | Tarvaris Jackson | MIN |
| 165 | TE16 | Chris Baker | NYJ |
| 166 | RB54 | Noah Herron | GB |
| 167 | TE17 | Randy McMichael | STL |
| 168 | DEF6 | Jacksonville Jaguars | JAX |
| 169 | WR61 | Bobby Engram | SEA |
| 170 | QB28 | Matt Schaub | HOU |
| 171 | RB55 | Lorenzo Booker | MIA |
| 172 | DEF7 | Carolina Panthers | CAR |
| 173 | TE18 | Ben Troupe | TEN |
| 174 | WR62 | Reche Caldwell | NE |
| 175 | PK5 | Jeff Wilkins | STL |
| 176 | RB56 | Mewelde Moore | MIN |
| 177 | WR63 | Brandon Lloyd | WAS |
| 178 | RB57 | Maurice Morris | SEA |
| 179 | WR64 | Joe Jurevicius | CLE |
| 180 | RB58 | Musa Smith | BAL |
| 181 | DEF8 | Denver Broncos | DEN |
| 182 | QB29 | Byron Leftwich | JAX |
| 183 | PK6 | David Akers | PHI |
| 184 | WR65 | David Givens | TEN |
| 185 | TE19 | Daniel Graham | DEN |
| 186 | DEF9 | Philadelphia Eagles | PHI |
| 187 | DEF10 | Dallas Cowboys | DAL |
| 188 | PK7 | Stephen Gostkowski | NE |
| 189 | RB59 | Kenny Irons | CIN |
| 190 | WR66 | Dwayne Jarrett | CAR |
| 191 | QB30 | Chris Simms | TB |
| 192 | RB60 | DeDe Dorsey | IND |
| 193 | DEF11 | Miami Dolphins | MIA |
| 194 | RB61 | Sammy Morris | NE |
| 195 | RB62 | Mike Alstott | TB |
| 196 | DEF12 | Green Bay Packers | GB |
| 197 | WR67 | Peerless Price | BUF |
| 198 | RB63 | Michael Bennett | KC |
| 199 | PK8 | Robbie Gould | CHI |
| 200 | RB64 | Chris Henry | TEN |

JERRY LAI / US PRESSWIRE




PLAYER TRACKER

FOLLOW UP TO

9

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# QUARTERBACKS

## OVERVIEW

## Peyton's place

Manning is set to take his long-expected place atop the fantasy QB heap, but don't be surprised if the Saints' Drew Brees marches ahead of him at some point this season.

For the last several seasons, **Peyton Manning** has been the top fantasy quarterback, but never the top NFL QB, falling short of the Super Bowl year after year. Now, he can lay claim to both titles. No other player has more touchdown passes than Manning's 137 during the last four years. He's never missed a game in his nine-year career, and only twice has Manning failed to pass for more than 4,100 yards in a season. Once again, he's the best of the best, and the only non-running back worth taking in the first round.

**Tom Brady** has passed for at least 3,500 yards and 20 TDs in each of the last five seasons, and has done so working with inferior receivers. To reward his hard work, New England went on a wideout binge in the offseason, trading for Wes Welker and signing Donté Stallworth. The Patriots then traded for Randy Moss during draft weekend. All of this should make Brady's fantasy stock—already high—skyrocket. This could be a career year for him.

Showing no ill effects from last offseason's reconstructive knee surgery, **Carson Palmer** quickly regained form and finished second only to Manning in passing TDs (28) last year. Palmer's passing yards have also increased in each of the last three seasons (including a career-high 4,035 in 2006), and he has two superb targets in Chad Johnson and T.J. Houshmandzadeh. It all adds up to another solid fantasy season for Palmer.

Few expected **Drew Brees** to do what he did last season. After being deemed expendable by San Diego, Brees signed a free-agent contract with New Orleans last offseason and the partnership became the feel-good story of the NFL. Brees passed for an NFL-best and career-high 4,418 yards along with 26 TDs in leading the Saints to the NFC Championship Game. With budding stars such as running back Reggie Bush and wide receiver Marques Colston in the mix, Brees has jumped up to a marquee fantasy QB.

**Marc Bulger** finally played all 16 games for the first time in his career, and the results were impressive, as the seven-year pro put up career highs across the board, including completions (370), yards (4,301) and TDs (24). When healthy, Bulger is one of the best, especially in St. Louis' high-flying offense.

It's likely make-or-break time for **Michael Vick**. The Falcons have a new coach in Bobby Petrino, who says he'll gear Atlanta's offense around Vick's arm, not his legs. That could be bad news for fantasy owners, as last year Vick became the first NFL QB to rush for more than 1,000 yards (1,039) in a season. He's also thrown at least 12 interceptions in each of the last three years, so Vick is a definite risk/reward choice.

Revitalized in new Offensive Coordinator Mike Martz's pass-happy scheme last year, **Jon Kitna** finished fourth in passing yards with a career-high 4,208. Things got better in the offseason with the addition of top rookie wideout Calvin Johnson, who'll line up with Roy Williams. Kitna's line protection is a concern, though—he was sacked 63 times, 14 more than any other NFL starting quarterback. **Vince Young** enjoyed a nice coming-out party in 2006, ending with the former University of Texas star being named NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year. His numbers weren't eye-popping (12 TDs, 13 interceptions), but Young did lead all QBs with seven rushing scores. He'll certainly put up better numbers now that he's the full-time starter in Tennessee, and the potential is there for Young to be a fantasy star for years to come.

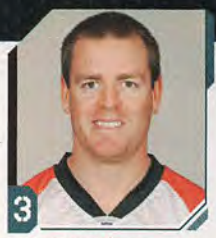
**Tony Romo** went from a fantasy nobody to a top-10 quarterback in the matter of a season. He became a starter during Week Eight, and passed for 2,903 yards, 19 TDs and was selected to the Pro Bowl. Like Young, Romo's stats should increase as well, and having Terrell Owens on your team doesn't hurt either.

**Donovan McNabb** was having a great season (18 TDs in 10 games) until a torn ACL ended it in Week 11. Although McNabb appears to have recovered, he's played in only 19 of 32 games the last two seasons. So the Eagles drafted former University of Houston QB Kevin Kolb in the second round as insurance. If you draft McNabb, make sure to have a backup plan.

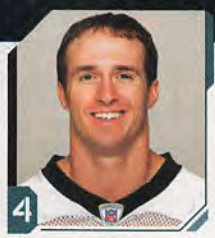
***One to watch:*** Denver Coach Mike Shanahan handed over the reins to rookie **Jay Cutler** with five games left last season and the Broncos fighting for a playoff spot. The former Vanderbilt star didn't lead the team to the postseason (going 2-3), but managed to pass for 1,001 yards and nine TDs. Cutler is now the full-time starter and with receivers like Javon Walker, Rod Smith and Daniel Graham, he could put up decent fantasy stats in his second season.

ED RODE / WIRE IMAGE.COM

**Tom Brady**
*New England Patriots*



**Carson Palmer**
*Cincinnati Bengals*



**Drew Brees**
*New Orleans Saints*

**Marc Bulger**
*St. Louis Rams*

# TOP 50

*RANKINGS AND PROJECTIONS COURTESY OF FOOTBALLGUYS.COM*

| RANK | NAME | RATING |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | MANNING, PEYTON | 329.4 |
| 2 | BRADY, TOM | 304.5 |
| 3 | PALMER, CARSON | 300.7 |
| 4 | BREES, DREW | 296.6 |
| 5 | BULGER, MARC | 291.5 |
| 6 | VICK, MICHAEL | 288.5 |
| 7 | KITNA, JON | 276.9 |
| 8 | YOUNG, VINCE | 271.4 |
| 9 | ROMO, TONY | 258.1 |
| 10 | McNABB, DONOVAN | 257.1 |
| 11 | ROETHLISBERGER, BEN | 254.6 |
| 12 | MANNING, ELI | 253.0 |
| 13 | LEINART, MATT | 251.4 |
| 14 | RIVERS, PHILIP | 250.7 |
| 15 | HASSELBECK, MATT | 246.5 |
| 16 | FAVRE, BRETT | 241.5 |
| 17 | CUTLER, JAY | 240.3 |
| 18 | SMITH, ALEX | 235.5 |
| 19 | DELHOMME, JAKE | 235.2 |
| 20 | LOSMAN, J.P. | 234.5 |
| 21 | McNAIR, STEVE | 231.8 |
| 22 | HUARD, DAMON | 227.9 |
| 23 | CAMPBELL, JASON | 224.8 |
| 24 | GREEN, TRENT | 220.0 |
| 25 | PENNINGTON, CHAD | 219.0 |

| PROJECTED | PASSING ATT | PASSING COM | PASSING YDS | PASSING TD | PASSING INTS | RUSHING YDS | RUSHING TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 IND | 515 | 334 | 4,218 | 30 | 11 | 35 | 1 |
| 2 NE | 500 | 320 | 3,850 | 28 | 14 | 80 | 1 |
| 3 CIN | 515 | 328 | 3,883 | 28 | 15 | 35 | 1 |
| 4 NO | 542 | 352 | 4,060 | 24 | 14 | 56 | 1 |
| 5 STL | 560 | 352 | 4,082 | 24 | 13 | 44 | 0 |
| 6 ATL | 380 | 203 | 2,478 | 16 | 14 | 842 | 5 |
| 7 DET | 560 | 349 | 3,954 | 20 | 19 | 122 | 1 |
| 8 TEN | 435 | 229 | 2,654 | 14 | 16 | 627 | 6 |
| 9 DAL | 447 | 261 | 3,353 | 22 | 17 | 135 | 1 |
| 10 PHI | 470 | 281 | 3,412 | 22 | 13 | 55 | 1 |
| 11 PIT | 455 | 268 | 3,499 | 21 | 18 | 77 | 1 |
| 12 NYG | 505 | 278 | 3,283 | 24 | 18 | 49 | 1 |
| 13 ARI | 500 | 301 | 3,520 | 19 | 14 | 74 | 1 |
| 14 SD | 460 | 281 | 3,404 | 22 | 12 | 45 | 0 |
| 15 SEA | 440 | 270 | 3,014 | 24 | 16 | 98 | 1 |
| 16 GB | 575 | 316 | 3,623 | 19 | 18 | 23 | 0 |
| 17 DEN | 430 | 244 | 3,010 | 23 | 14 | 58 | 1 |
| 18 SF | 461 | 267 | 3,089 | 19 | 16 | 151 | 1 |
| 19 CAR | 450 | 270 | 3,105 | 22 | 16 | 19 | 1 |
| 20 BUF | 435 | 258 | 3,049 | 19 | 14 | 141 | 1 |
| 21 BAL | 470 | 290 | 3,102 | 18 | 13 | 117 | 1 |
| 22 KC | 455 | 273 | 3,372 | 17 | 12 | 33 | 0 |
| 23 WAS | 430 | 234 | 2,752 | 19 | 12 | 172 | 1 |
| 24 KC | 520 | 274 | 3,120 | 18 | 14 | 60 | 0 |
| 25 NYJ | 440 | 285 | 2,983 | 17 | 16 | 119 | 1 |

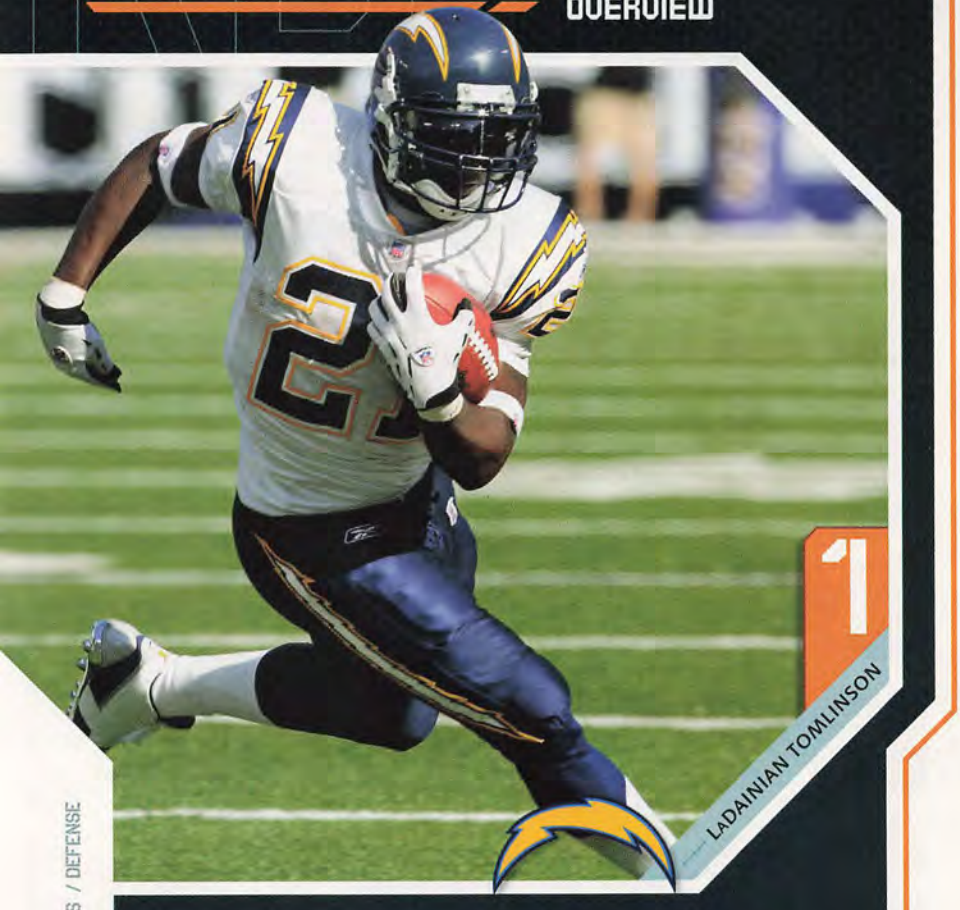
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 26 | GROSSMAN, REX | CHI 218.9 |
| 27 | JACKSON, TARVARIS | MIN 209.0 |
| 28 | SCHAUB, MATT | HOU 204.5 |
| 29 | LEFTWICH, BYRON | JAX 203.0 |
| 30 | SIMMS, CHRIS | TB 172.2 |
| 31 | RUSSELL, JaMARCUS | OAK 155.0 |
| 32 | FRYE, CHARLIE | CLE 149.0 |
| 33 | QUINN, BRADY | CLE 62.1 |
| 34 | GARCIA, JEFF | TB 50.1 |
| 35 | GARRARD, DAVID | JAX 44.9 |
| 36 | WALTER, ANDREW | OAK 40.5 |
| 37 | FEELEY, A.J. | PHI 40.1 |
| 38 | BRUNELL, MARK | WAS 28.3 |
| 39 | BOLLER, KYLE | BAL 28.0 |
| 40 | ANDERSON, DEREK | CLE 27.1 |
| 41 | BATCH, CHARLIE | PIT 26.7 |
| 42 | WALLACE, SENECA | SEA 26.7 |
| 43 | BOLLINGER, BROOKS | MIN 26.6 |
| 44 | JOHNSON, BRAD | DAL 26.5 |
| 45 | RAMSEY, PATRICK | DEN 26.1 |
| 46 | HARRINGTON, JOEY | ATL 24.5 |
| 47 | CARR, DAVID | CAR 23.5 |
| 48 | McCOWN, JOSH | OAK 19.1 |
| 49 | CLEMENS, KELLEN | NYJ 18.2 |
| 50 | WARNER, KURT | ARI 18.1 |



HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

# Running Backs

## Overview




### Buy, buy, buy

There are lots of quality running backs in this year's fantasy crop, and you can never have enough good ones in the cupboard.

Fantasy owners can never have enough running backs on their team. It's the position from which the most points come from and the one most likely to suffer injuries. With more teams going to the platoon system, it's of the utmost importance to draft at least one running back who will see the lion's share of carries.

It's no secret that **LaDainian Tomlinson** is the No. 1 pick here—for running backs and the overall draft. If LDT doesn't go first, then there's something wrong with your fantasy league. The 2006 NFL MVP broke the single-season record for TDs (31), and that didn't even count the two scores he threw (Tomlinson now has five TD passes the last two years). Oh, yeah, and there's also the career-high 1,815 yards as well. It'll be hard for Tomlinson to repeat last season's numbers, but it wouldn't be a surprise if he surpassed them, either.

In his first full season as the Chiefs' starter, **Larry Johnson** recorded a career-high 1,789 yards, second to only Tomlinson. He added 410 receiving yards, along with 19 total TDs. Johnson will continue to put up big numbers, especially as he enters his contract year. For the second straight season, though, the Chiefs lose another Pro Bowl lineman in guard Will Shields.

**Steven Jackson** is perhaps the most complete running back on this list. He led all tailbacks in catches (90) and receiving yards (806) last season, while ranking fifth with 1,528 rushing yards. Jackson also hit double digits (16 total) in TDs for the second time in his career. The Rams' wide-open offense is a great fit for Jackson, who's easily a top-five overall pick. No tailback shot up higher last year than **Frank Gore**, who almost tripled his yardage total from 2005 with 1,695 yards last season, while adding nine total TDs. Every NFL team had a shot at Gore, who slipped to the third round in the 2005 draft due to concerns about his knee. Don't make the same mistake in fantasy drafts if Gore is still on the board.

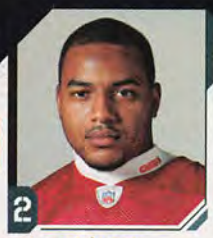
Like Jackson, **Brian Westbrook** is a multipurpose weapon at running back, racking up yards on the ground (a career-high 1,217 last year) and in the air (699). Westbrook tied his personal best with 11 TDs in 2006, but owners should know that he has never played all 16 games during his career. **Willie Parker**'s numbers rose for the third straight year in his career, including more than tripling his 2005 TD total to 16 last season. Parker, whose 1,494 rushing yards ranked sixth overall, also had 12 carries that went for more than 20 yards, tying for second in the league in that department.

**Joseph Addai** didn't rank in the top 15 for yards (1,081) and scored just seven rushing TDs. So why is he so high on this list? Well, Addai no longer has to split carries with Dominic Rhodes (who signed with Oakland), meaning the second-year pro's numbers should rise dramatically. **Rudi Johnson** has stayed consistent in the last three seasons, scoring 12 TDs each year. He has also reached at least 1,300 rushing yards in every season during that span, and is a very safe choice. Johnson's only downfall is that he's a one-dimensional back, never having caught a TD pass in his career and totaling just 478 receiving yards in six years.

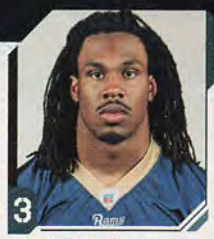
Not heeding the Madden jinx warning, **Shaun Alexander** became yet another victim and missed six games with a broken foot. Alexander's 896 yards and seven TDs were his lowest since his first season with the Seahawks in 2000. Even though he's still a top-10 pick, it'll be hard for Alexander to regain his solid fantasy status. While Alexander is moving down, one back on the rise is **Reggie Bush**, who finished second to Jackson in receiving yards (742) among running backs and recorded 565 rushing yards. Bush also adds another weapon with his returning ability, and should improve his numbers across the board this season.

***One to watch:*** After trading away Pro Bowler Willis McGahee to Baltimore in March, the Bills drafted **Marshawn Lynch** with the 12th overall pick in April's draft. Lynch, who had more than 3,000 rushing yards during his college career at California, should get an immediate chance to start and could be the most productive rookie out of this year's class.

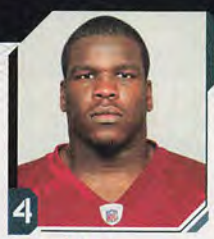
BRUCE SCHWARTZMAN



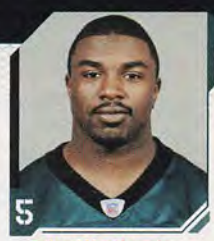

Larry Johnson
*Kansas City Chiefs*




Steven Jackson
*St. Louis Rams*




Frank Gore
*San Francisco 49ers*




Brian Westbrook
*Philadelphia Eagles*

# TOP 50

*RANKINGS AND PROJECTIONS COURTESY OF FOOTBALLGUYS.COM*

**RANK** **NAME** **RATING**

**1 TOMLINSON, LADAINIAN** — 339.2

PROJECTED — SD

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 315 | 1,575 | 20 | 54 | 443 | 2 |

**2 JOHNSON, LARRY** — 311.3

PROJECTED — KC

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 375 | 1,613 | 17 | 40 | 360 | 2 |

**3 JACKSON, STEVEN** — 293.4

PROJECTED — STL

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 325 | 1,430 | 11 | 80 | 664 | 3 |

**4 GORE, FRANK** — 258.8

PROJECTED — SF

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 300 | 1,470 | 10 | 50 | 398 | 2 |

**5 WESTBROOK, BRIAN** — 258.5

PROJECTED — PHI

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 240 | 1,200 | 8 | 70 | 665 | 4 |

**6 PARKER, WILLIE** — 251.5

PROJECTED — PIT

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 325 | 1,463 | 11 | 34 | 272 | 2 |

**7 ADDAI, JOSEPH** — 234.0

PROJECTED — IND

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 285 | 1,283 | 10 | 45 | 338 | 2 |

**8 JOHNSON, RUDI** — 220.0

PROJECTED — CIN

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 315 | 1,292 | 12 | 23 | 129 | 1 |

**9 ALEXANDER, SHAUN** — 212.1

PROJECTED — SEA

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 295 | 1,239 | 12 | 17 | 102 | 1 |

**10 BUSH, REGGIE** — 209.8

PROJECTED — NO

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 160 | 656 | 7 | 85 | 782 | 4 |

**11 MARONEY, LAURENCE** — 208.1

PROJECTED — NE

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 275 | 1,183 | 11 | 28 | 238 | 0 |

**12 PORTIS, CLINTON** — 200.5

PROJECTED — WAS

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 275 | 1,169 | 10 | 22 | 176 | 1 |

**13 JONES-DREW, MAURICE** — 195.8

PROJECTED — JAX

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 170 | 884 | 9 | 47 | 414 | 2 |

**14 JAMES, EDGERRIN** — 194.4

PROJECTED — ARI

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 325 | 1,170 | 8 | 36 | 234 | 1 |

**15 BROWN, RONNIE** — 191.6

PROJECTED — MIA

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 265 | 1,100 | 8 | 33 | 276 | 1 |

**16 HENRY, TRAVIS** — 184.0

PROJECTED — DEN

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 275 | 1,210 | 9 | 15 | 90 | 0 |

**17 McGAHEE, WILLIS** — 171.9

PROJECTED — BAL

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 285 | 1,097 | 8 | 20 | 142 | 0 |

**18 McALLISTER, DEUCE** — 166.3

PROJECTED — NO

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 215 | 925 | 9 | 30 | 198 | 0 |

**19 GREEN, AHMAN** — 159.7

PROJECTED — HOU

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 215 | 871 | 6 | 45 | 306 | 1 |

**20 BARBER, MARION** — 159.4

PROJECTED — DAL

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 175 | 788 | 10 | 20 | 146 | 1 |

**21 BENSON, CEDRIC** — 152.5

PROJECTED — CHI

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 230 | 943 | 8 | 15 | 102 | 0 |

**22 TAYLOR, FRED** — 149.3

PROJECTED — JAX

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 220 | 990 | 4 | 25 | 203 | 1 |

**23 DUNN, WARRICK** — 147.2

PROJECTED — ATL

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 245 | 1,005 | 4 | 22 | 167 | 1 |

**24 PETERSON, ADRIAN** — 146.8

PROJECTED — MIN

| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 225 | 968 | 6 | 20 | 140 | 0 |

**25 JONES, THOMAS** — 143.7

PROJECTED — NYJ

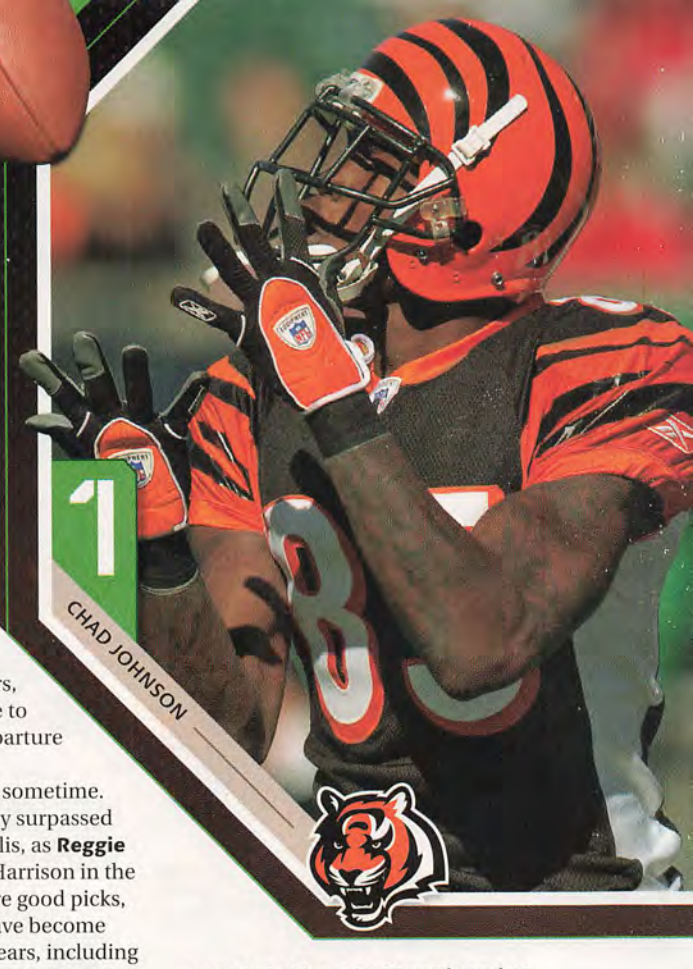
| RUSHING | | | RECEIVING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSH | YDS | TD | REC | YDS | TD |
| 225 | 923 | 6 | 36 | 154 | 0 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 26 | JACOBS, BRANDON | NYG 137.8 |
| 27 | WILLIAMS, DEANGELO | CAR 137.7 |
| 28 | JONES, JULIUS | DAL 135.2 |
| 29 | JONES, KEVIN | DET 135.1 |
| 30 | DROUGHNS, REUBEN | NYG 134.0 |
| 31 | LEWIS, JAMAL | CLE 132.6 |
| 32 | WILLIAMS, CARNELL | TB 132.4 |
| 33 | WHITE, LENDALE | TEN 131.3 |
| 34 | LYNCH, MARSHAWN | BUF 128.5 |
| 35 | TAYLOR, CHESTER | MIN 127.1 |
| 36 | BELL, MIKE | DEN 118.1 |
| 37 | BELL, TATUM | DET 112.0 |
| 38 | WASHINGTON, LEON | NYJ 111.9 |
| 39 | BETTS, LADELL | WAS 109.4 |
| 40 | FOSTER, DESHAUN | CAR 109.1 |
| 41 | MORENCY, VERNAND | GB 107.3 |
| 42 | NORWOOD, JERIOUS | ATL 107.2 |
| 43 | JORDAN, LAMONT | OAK 89.3 |
| 44 | TURNER, MICHAEL | SD 82.4 |
| 45 | LUNDY, WALI | HOU 77.9 |
| 46 | BUCKHALTER, CORRELL | PHI 76.7 |
| 47 | PETERSON, ADRIAN | CHI 74.7 |
| 48 | PITTMAN, MICHAEL | TB 68.7 |
| 49 | RHODES, DOMINIC | OAK 66.4 |
| 50 | FAULK, KEVIN | NE 64.1 |



HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

# WR WIDE RECEIVERS
## OVERVIEW




### Wild cards

This isn't the place to shop for a sure thing, but if you're hankering to do so, look no further than the Bengal with bravado, Mr. Johnson.

Wide receivers always seem to be the wild card in fantasy drafts. In one group, there's the wideouts who consistently produce on a year-to-year basis (**Chad Johnson**, **Marvin Harrison** and **Terrell Owens**, among others). Then there are the receivers drafted because of past performances who turn out to be disappointments (Chris Chambers and Joe Horn come to mind). Finally, one or two wide receivers come out of nowhere and become breakout players, as **Marques Colston** and Mike Furrey did last season.

In three of the last four seasons, only one player has ranked among the top five in receiving yards, and that's Johnson. His 1,369 yards led the league last year, although Johnson's numbers were slightly down from his career bests in 2005. He should be the first wideout taken off the board.

A strained hamstring kept **Steve Smith** out of the first two games of last season, and he never seemed to catch a groove, finishing with 1,166 yards and eight TDs. That's a dream season for some receivers, but far below Smith's totals of 1,563/12 in 2005. Barring further injury, look for Smith to bounce back and put up huge numbers, though he now may have to work harder with the departure of Keyshawn Johnson.

Well, it had to happen sometime. The apprentice has finally surpassed the mentor in Indianapolis, as **Reggie Wayne** jumps ahead of Harrison in the fantasy rankings. Both are good picks, but Wayne's numbers have become better over the last few years, including a career-high 86 receptions and 1,310 yards in 2006, along with nine TDs. It's time to officially anoint Wayne as a No. 1 fantasy receiver.

Last season was the first in seven years that **Torry Holt** didn't have at least 1,300 yards. However, 1,188 yards aren't too bad, and also factor in that Holt has scored 10 TDs or more in three of the last four years. As long as Marc Bulger is throwing passes in St. Louis, Holt will be a top fantasy wideout.

Harrison was only three yards off Johnson's total last year, and is the model of consistency in the NFL. In each of the last eight seasons, he has recorded at least 1,100 yards and 10 TDs. During that span, Harrison has missed only two games. Even entering his 12th season, he shows no signs of slowing down and is a rare safe and solid fantasy selection.

For all the drama that surrounds Owens yearly, there's no question that the man produces. His 13 TDs led all receivers last season, as he compiled 1,180 yards receiving, the sixth time in the past seven years he's had more than 1,000 yards. Draft Owens with the knowledge that anything can happen with him, both on and off the field. In Cincinnati, **T.J. Houshmandzadeh**

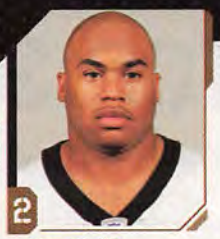
## TOP 50

*RANKINGS AND PROJECTIONS COURTESY OF FOOTBALLGUYS.COM*

| RANK | NAME | RATING | PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | JOHNSON, CHAD | 203.5 | CIN | 93 | 1,395 | 10 |
| 2 | SMITH, STEVE | 198.9 | CAR | 95 | 1,397 | 9 |
| 3 | WAYNE, REGGIE | 191.1 | IND | 88 | 1,311 | 10 |
| 4 | HOLT, TORRY | 182.2 | STL | 94 | 1,222 | 10 |
| 5 | HARRISON, MARVIN | 179.9 | IND | 85 | 1,199 | 10 |
| 6 | OWENS, TERRELL | 173.2 | DAL | 82 | 1,132 | 10 |
| 7 | HOUSHMANDZADEH, T.J. | 171.7 | CIN | 91 | 1,165 | 9 |
| 8 | WALKER, JAVON | 170.6 | DEN | 75 | 1,163 | 8 |
| 9 | FITZGERALD, LARRY | 168.6 | ARI | 87 | 1,201 | 8 |
| 10 | DRIVER, DONALD | 167.9 | GB | 86 | 1,187 | 8 |
| 11 | EVANS, LEE | 166.6 | BUF | 78 | 1,186 | 8 |



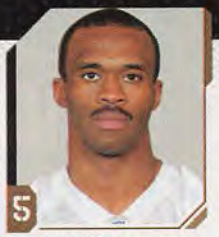
CHRIS BERNACCHI/ SPORTPICS; OPPOSITE PAGE: HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL



**Steve Smith**
*Carolina Panthers*

**Reggie Wayne**
*Indianapolis Colts*

**Torry Holt**
*St. Louis Rams*



**Marvin Harrison**
*Indianapolis Colts*

plays Wayne to Johnson's Harrison. And although Johnson's nowhere near ready to pass the torch, Houshmandzadeh's career highs of 90 receptions, 1,081 yards and nine TDs in 2006 show there is room for two Bengals in the top 10 of fantasy wideouts.

The move to Denver was prosperous for **Javon Walker**, who stayed healthy for the first time in his career and posted 1,084 yards and eight TDs. Look for Walker's numbers to stay steady or even increase, since he won't have to deal with a QB change as he did in 2006. The same goes in Arizona, as **Larry Fitzgerald** now has nearly a full season with Matt Leinart under his belt. Fitzgerald missed three games with a strained hamstring, but still managed 946 yards and six TDs, numbers that will likely increase in 2007.

No one was happier to hear Brett Favre would be back for one more season than **Donald Driver**. Favre's favorite target last year ranked fifth in the league with 1,295 yards and added eight TDs. Driver should benefit from Favre's farewell tour, as you know there'll be plenty of passes thrown. **Lee Evans** had career numbers of 82 catches and 1,292 yards last year, establishing a solid connection with QB J.P. Losman in Buffalo. As the only decent wideout with the Bills, Evans will again see lots of passes coming his way.

**Roy Williams** was another player who had a breakout season in 2006, as his 1,310 yards were a career high and tied for third in the league. However, Williams' production in Detroit may be hurt with the arrival of hyped rookie Calvin Johnson. **Anquan Boldin**'s production slipped some from two years ago, as he caught just four TDs in 2006. Still, Boldin is a yardage-gainer (more than 2,600 combined the last two seasons) and remains a good No. 2 fantasy receiver.

If not for Vince Young, Colston would have won the 2006 Offensive Rookie of the Year. A seventh-round pick, the former Hofstra star surprised the league with 1,038 yards and eight TDs, leading all rookie receivers and ranking in the top 20 overall. He's now the go-to guy in New Orleans. **Andre Johnson** had a career-high 1,147 yards last season, but has never scored more than six TDs in a single year. For leagues that give points for receptions, Johnson is the top target, as he led all wideouts with 103 in 2006.

***One to watch:*** **Devery Henderson** is quickly becoming known as a big-play receiver. The fourth-year pro only caught 32 passes last year, but eight of those went for 40 yards or more. That tied him with Chad Johnson for the NFL lead in that category. With Horn off to the Falcons, Henderson becomes the Saints' No. 2 wideout and is poised to put up career numbers.

**12 WILLIAMS, ROY** — RATING 166.5

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| DET | 80 | 1,240 | 7 |

**13 BOLDIN, ANQUAN** — RATING 161.0

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| ARI | 83 | 1,162 | 7 |

**14 COLSTON, MARQUES** — RATING 159.0

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| NO | 75 | 1,110 | 8 |

**15 JOHNSON, ANDRE** — RATING 154.8

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| HOU | 90 | 1,053 | 8 |

**16 BURRESS, PLAXICO** — RATING 153.4

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| NYG | 68 | 1,054 | 8 |

**17 MOSS, RANDY** — RATING 150.7

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| NE | 68 | 952 | 9 |

**18 CHAMBERS, CHRIS** — RATING 149.9

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| MIA | 77 | 1,016 | 7 |

**19 EDWARDS, BRAYLON** — RATING 147.9

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| CLE | 75 | 1,103 | 6 |

**20 BRANCH, DEION** — RATING 145.3

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| SEA | 70 | 958 | 8 |

**21 WARD, HINES** — RATING 145.0

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| PIT | 75 | 1,020 | 7 |

**22 MOSS, SANTANA** — RATING 144.4

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| WAS | 65 | 975 | 7 |

**23 GALLOWAY, JOEY** — RATING 140.9

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| TB | 62 | 980 | 7 |

**24 JACKSON, DARRELL** — RATING 137.9

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| SF | 70 | 959 | 7 |

**25 COLES, LAVERANUES** — RATING 135.3

| PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|
| NYJ | 85 | 978 | 6 |

| RANK | NAME | | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26 | CLAYTON, MARK | BAL | 134.8 |
| 27 | GLENN, TERRY | DAL | 128.9 |
| 28 | BERRIAN, BERNARD | CHI | 124.5 |
| 29 | HACKETT, D.J. | SEA | 122.0 |
| 30 | COTCHERY, JERRICHO | NYJ | 118.4 |
| 31 | BROWN, REGGIE | PHI | 116.6 |
| 32 | BRUCE, ISAAC | STL | 115.8 |
| 33 | STALLWORTH, DONTÉ | NE | 114.5 |
| 34 | JOHNSON, CALVIN | DET | 114.4 |
| 35 | JACKSON, VINCENT | SD | 112.2 |
| 36 | HOLMES, SANTONIO | PIT | 110.5 |
| 37 | JENNINGS, GREG | GB | 106.6 |
| 38 | PORTER, JERRY | OAK | 105.6 |
| 39 | KENNISON, EDDIE | KC | 99.8 |
| 40 | HENDERSON, DEVERY | NO | 97.2 |
| 41 | JONES, BRANDON | TEN | 95.6 |
| 42 | MASON, DERRICK | BAL | 93.2 |
| 43 | WILLIAMS, REGGIE | JAX | 92.1 |
| 44 | JONES, MATT | JAX | 91.7 |
| 45 | MARSHALL, BRANDON | DEN | 91.3 |
| 46 | BENNETT, DREW | STL | 87.9 |
| 47 | BATTLE, ARNAZ | SF | 85.4 |
| 48 | MUHAMMAD, MUHSIN | CHI | 84.7 |
| 49 | WILLIAMSON, TROY | MIN | 84.7 |
| 50 | CARTER, DREW | CAR | 84.4 |

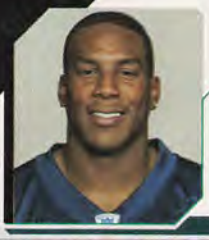
# TIGHT ENDS

## OVERVIEW

### Bear market

NFL tight ends are paying fewer dividends these days, but you can still find some value at the top.

*RANKINGS AND PROJECTIONS COURTESY OF FOOTBALLGUYS.COM*



HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

Production among fantasy tight ends continues to drop. For the first time since 2003, a tight end failed to have a 1,000-yard season. Still, this is a position that must be drafted, though owners may want to wait until the middle rounds given the lack of star power after the top five.

As he has in the last few years, **Antonio Gates** heads the list of fantasy tight ends. Although his totals were the lowest in the past three seasons, Gates still led all tight ends with 924 receiving yards and nine TDs last year. With San Diego not doing much in the offseason to improve its receiving corps, Gates will again be a top red-zone option.

Owners who drafted **Tony Gonzalez** last year were more than disappointed. The Chiefs veteran had six games with 50 yards or less, as he became more of a decoy than an open-field threat. However, Gonzalez still finished second among all tight ends with 900 yards. The only cause for concern is his scoring, with Gonzalez combining for just seven TDs the last two years after totaling 24 from 2002-04.

Even though he had the second-lowest yardage total (623) of his career, **Jeremy Shockey** still managed to tie a personal best with seven TDs last year. Look for a slight increase in Shockey's yards this season, as long as he can get better QB production. Owners should be a little wary, because as Eli Manning goes, so will Shockey. **Todd Heap** has proven to be one of the most consistent tight ends of late. Setting aside an injury-riddled 2004 campaign, he has played in every game since 2002. Heap ranked in the top five among tight ends last year in catches, yards and TDs, and should put up solid numbers again this season.

Is this finally the breakout year for **Kellen Winslow Jr**? He finally made it through an entire season and led all tight ends with 89 receptions in 2006 along with 875 yards, but found the end zone just three times. If he can stay healthy, look for Winslow to have career numbers this season. With Atlanta's receiving corps still barren (sorry, an aging Joe Horn doesn't help), **Alge Crumpler** is always a good pickup. Michael Vick's favorite target was second just to Gates in TDs (eight) and has recorded at least 750 yards in each of the last three seasons.

**Chris Cooley** tied Santana Moss for the team lead in receiving TDs (six) last season, adding 734 yards. The fourth-year Redskin also has a knack for the big play. Twelve of Cooley's 57 catches went for 20 yards or more last year. Only Gates (14) and Crumpler (13) had more among tight ends. After combining for 12 TDs the previous two seasons, **Jason Witten** recorded just one in 2006. Still, he broke the 750-yard plateau for the third straight year, and will surely improve his end zone numbers this season.

**L.J. Smith** posted career highs in receptions and yards two seasons ago, but his numbers (50 catches, 611 yards) dropped a bit in 2006. He still managed to tie a personal best, however, with five TDs. Smith is a frequent target of Eagles QB Donovan McNabb, who returns after missing half of last season with injuries. **Heath Miller** has done little to disappoint in his first two NFL seasons. He has 11 combined TDs, and look for him to finally pass the 500-yard mark this year in Pittsburgh.

***One to watch:*** Although he was the ninth tight end selected (fourth round) in the 2006 NFL Draft, Houston's **Owen Daniels** ended up leading all rookies at his position with 352 yards and five TDs. Daniels should improve with new quarterback Matt Schaub at the helm, and is a nice middle- to late-round pickup.

## TOP 30

| RANK | NAME | RATING | PROJECTED | REC | YDS | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | GATES, ANTONIO | 152.8 | SD | 79 | 988 | 9 |
| 2 | GONZALEZ, TONY | 120.0 | KC | 75 | 900 | 5 |
| 3 | SHOCKEY, JEREMY | 120.0 | NYG | 65 | 780 | 7 |
| 4 | HEAP, TODD | 116.3 | BAL | 75 | 803 | 6 |
| 5 | WINSLOW, KELLEN | 109.2 | CLE | 80 | 792 | 5 |
| 6 | CRUMPLER, ALGE | 102.2 | ATL | 49 | 662 | 6 |
| 7 | COOLEY, CHRIS | 99.3 | WAS | 55 | 633 | 6 |
| 8 | WITTEN, JASON | 97.1 | DAL | 63 | 731 | 4 |
| 9 | SMITH, L.J. | 87.8 | PHI | 55 | 638 | 4 |
| 10 | MILLER, HEATH | 72.6 | PIT | 37 | 426 | 5 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | DAVIS, VERNON | SF | 72.4 |
| 12 | WATSON, BEN | NE | 67.4 |
| 13 | CLARK, DALLAS | IND | 63.5 |
| 14 | DANIELS, OWEN | HOU | 60.0 |
| 15 | CLARK, DESMOND | CHI | 56.4 |
| 16 | BAKER, CHRIS | NYJ | 54.0 |
| 17 | McMICHAEL, RANDY | STL | 47.1 |
| 18 | TROUPE, BEN | TEN | 45.0 |
| 19 | GRAHAM, DANIEL | DEN | 44.0 |
| 20 | STEVENS, JERRAMY | TB | 43.8 |
| 21 | LEWIS, MARCEDES | JAX | 43.4 |
| 22 | POLLARD, MARCUS | SEA | 41.9 |
| 23 | OLSEN, GREG | CHI | 41.5 |
| 24 | SCHEFFLER, TONY | DEN | 41.1 |
| 25 | UTECHT, BEN | IND | 39.5 |
| 26 | SCAIFE, BO | TEN | 36.0 |
| 27 | SMITH, ALEX | TB | 34.2 |
| 28 | WRIGHSTER, GEORGE | JAX | 33.7 |
| 29 | HEIDEN, STEVE | CLE | 33.3 |
| 30 | MARTIN, DAVID | MIA | 32.7 |

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# KICKERS
## OVERVIEW

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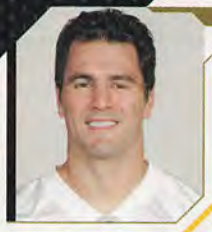

| RANK | NAME | TEAM |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | VINATIERI, ADAM | IND |
| 2 | GRAHAM, SHAYNE | CIN |
| 3 | KAEDING, NATE | SD |
| 4 | ELAM, JASON | DEN |
| 5 | WILKINS, JEFF | STL |
| 6 | AKERS, DAVID | PHI |
| 7 | GOSTKOWSKI, STEPHEN | NE |
| 8 | GOULD, ROBBIE | CHI |
| 9 | RACKERS, NEIL | ARI |
| 10 | BROWN, JOSH | SEA |
| 11 | STOVER, MATT | BAL |
| 12 | SCOBEE, JOSH | JAX |
| 13 | HANSON, JASON | DET |
| 14 | MARE, OLINDO | NO |
| 15 | KASAY, JOHN | CAR |
| 16 | REED, JEFF | PIT |
| 17 | FEELY, JAY | MIA |
| 18 | NEDNEY, JOE | SF |
| 19 | NUGENT, MIKE | NYJ |
| 20 | BIRONAS, ROB | TEN |
| 21 | LONGWELL, RYAN | MIN |
| 22 | CROSBY, MASON | GB |
| 23 | LINDELL, RIAN | BUF |
| 24 | BRYANT, MATT | TB |
| 25 | JANIKOWSKI, SEBASTIAN | OAK |
| 26 | DAWSON, PHIL | CLE |
| 27 | GRAMATICA, MARTIN | DAL |
| 28 | BROWN, KRIS | HOU |
| 29 | TYNES, LAWRENCE | KC |
| 30 | HUSTON, JOSH | NYG |
| 31 | MEDLOCK, JUSTIN | KC |
| 32 | ELLING, AARON | ATL |

When it comes time to draft kickers (which should always be either the last or second-to-last round), this year's crop provides consistency throughout the top 10. It all starts with **Adam Vinatieri**, probably the only kicker worth thinking about choosing in a round other than the final one.

The four-time Super Bowl champion had his consecutive streak of games played snapped last year at 176 due to a groin injury, but remains the league's best at his position. Vinatieri has made 76 of 86 field goals over the last three years, and kicking in the friendly confines of the RCA Dome doesn't hurt, either. The big leg of **Shayne Graham** has connected on five field goals of 50-plus yards in the last three years, and he's made 25 or more each season during that span. Graham should get plenty of opportunities with Cincinnati's wide-open offense.

Thanks largely to LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego's **Nate Kaeding** led the league in extra points last season with 58, 10 more than any other kicker. He also has connected on four of six field goals from 50 yards or longer in his career. **Jason Elam** ranked second in field-goal percentage (93.1) last season and has made 24 or more field goals in each of the last six years. As long as he's setting up in the thin Denver air, Elam will always be a top-5 kicker. **Jeff Wilkins**, who tied for the lead in field goals (32) in 2006, has not missed an extra point in eight straight seasons (346 total). Although he's entering his 14th season, Wilkins still has the leg to compete, evidenced by 15 of 17 field goals made from 50 yards or more in the last four years.

# DEFENSE
## OVERVIEW

Just like kickers, fantasy owners don't want to pull the trigger too soon on drafting a defense. However, there are two exceptions to this rule, and that's the defenses of the **Chicago Bears** and **Baltimore Ravens**, who top our list. Both of these units ranked in the top five last year in total defense and points scored, and have the personnel to earn fantasy points by scoring touchdowns on turnovers, with Baltimore returning a league-high five interceptions for scores. And with many fantasy leagues combining defense and special teams, Chicago's Devin Hester (who had an NFL-record six returns for TDs in 2006) is a nice secret weapon to have.

**San Diego** led the NFL in sacks (61) last season, thanks to the linebacker duo of Shawne Merriman (league-high 17) and Shaun Phillips (11.5). The Chargers also limited three of their opponents to 10 points or less in 2006. **Pittsburgh** excelled against the run last year, allowing just 88.2 yards per game and nine total TDs. The Steelers' 20 interceptions also tied for sixth in the league. Already a steady force, **New England**'s defense improved by leaps and bounds with the addition of linebacker Adalius Thomas, one of the offseason's top free agents. The former Ravens standout will enhance a unit that ranked in the top five for both sacks (44) and interceptions (22), and led the NFL with just 10 passing TDs allowed.

| RANK | TEAM |
|---|---|
| 1 | CHICAGO BEARS |
| 2 | BALTIMORE RAVENS |
| 3 | SAN DIEGO CHARGERS |
| 4 | PITTSBURGH STEELERS |
| 5 | NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS |
| 6 | JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS |
| 7 | CAROLINA PANTHERS |
| 8 | DENVER BRONCOS |
| 9 | PHILADELPHIA EAGLES |
| 10 | DALLAS COWBOYS |
| 11 | MIAMI DOLPHINS |
| 12 | GREEN BAY PACKERS |
| 13 | OAKLAND RAIDERS |
| 14 | NEW YORK JETS |
| 15 | MINNESOTA VIKINGS |
| 16 | ATLANTA FALCONS |
| 17 | SEATTLE SEAHAWKS |
| 18 | CINCINNATI BENGALS |
| 19 | TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS |
| 20 | INDIANAPOLIS COLTS |
| 21 | ARIZONA CARDINALS |
| 22 | BUFFALO BILLS |
| 23 | NEW ORLEANS SAINTS |
| 24 | NEW YORK GIANTS |
| 25 | KANSAS CITY CHIEFS |
| 26 | SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS |
| 27 | WASHINGTON REDSKINS |
| 28 | TENNESSEE TITANS |
| 29 | CLEVELAND BROWNS |
| 30 | ST. LOUIS RAMS |
| 31 | DETROIT LIONS |
| 32 | HOUSTON TEXANS |

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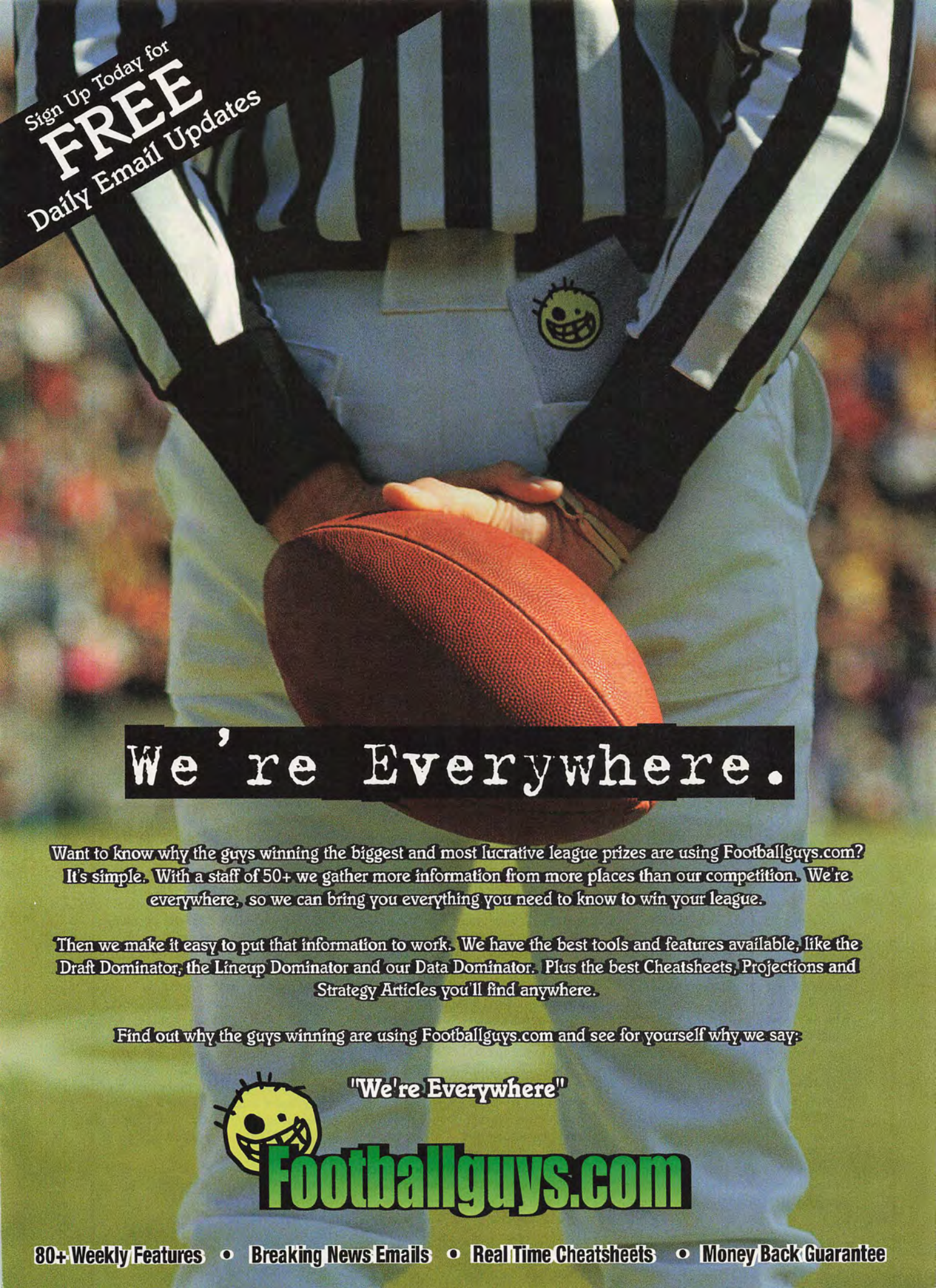
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## At 37 and now a Buccaneer, Jeff Garcia is taking on his next big challenge in pro football—and no one is betting against him this time.

*By Michael Bradley*

Think about it. Four hours alone in a car with the 2004 *Playboy* Playmate of the Year, cruising down the Pacific Coast Highway to a two-day spa retreat.

These are the things that intrude on reality when men begin to dream. Really dream. Because this doesn't just happen.

To your right is Carmella DeCesare, centerfold, friend of Hugh Hefner and, oh yeah, your wife. And to your left is the Pacific Ocean.

This is Jeff Garcia's life, and it's damn good.

Garcia married DeCesare this past April in northern California, bringing a happy ending to their longtime courtship. He has a new, two-year contract with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, which could pay off quite handsomely—$14.5 million over two years—with incentives and bonuses. And Garcia has also been promised the opportunity to compete for the starting job.

Things are great.

Well, for the most part.

At 37, Garcia has entered the final act of his professional football career. He might find work after this contract expires, but it's not too likely, since the market for quarterbacks pushing 40 is only slightly livelier than the demand for Pacman Jones' self-help tapes. That Garcia's playing in Tampa, and not Philadelphia, is the result of circumstances beyond his control and has caused some internal strife that adds another item to the list of obstacles he has had to overcome.

Sure, Garcia is thrilled to have the chance to take down Chris Simms and pilot the Pewter attack. And the money isn't bad, either. Garcia gets about $5 million in 2007, which is quite an upgrade from last year's backup money in Philadelphia. For someone who was once making $28,000 a year as a scrub for the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League, this is like a trip to Emerald City.

Still, there is some angst. After all he did for them last year, Garcia didn't get a real offer from the Eagles. And that stung. Even if he would rather start than play understudy, Garcia at least wanted a chance to stay in Philadelphia. Donovan McNabb's torn knee ligament gave Garcia the opportunity to start, and there's no guarantee the Eagles star will be available right away this season. Maybe Garcia was thinking he'd be so good early on that the team wouldn't think about reinserting McNabb when his knee was healed.

The NFL is a business, right? And if Philadelphia wanted to make A.J. Feeley its backup quarterback, primarily because he's seven years younger than Garcia, that's the Eagles' right. Besides, there is no way Philadelphia would have come close to the offer the Buccaneers made, even if you threw in every incentive, perk, bonus and promotional consideration. Come on, Jeff, you're making more money and have the shot to start. Isn't that what it's all about?

"I'm definitely disappointed," Garcia says. "I felt like I found a place where I had become comfortable, a place that had become my second home. I enjoyed being in Philadelphia and working with my teammates and the staff with the Eagles and everybody involved with the Eagles. There was a positive vibe and feeling there.

"To not even have a chance to negotiate or work out a contract felt like they were saying, 'Thanks for what you did,

but we're going in a different direction and don't let the door hit you in the ass.'"

What Garcia did will always be remembered by Eagles fans, as he saved their team's season. When McNabb went down against the Titans, Philadelphia was 5-4 and on its way to 5-5, thanks to a 31-13 loss to Tennessee. And after the Eagles were bashed the following Sunday night by Indianapolis, 45-21, fans began calculating what draft spot would be a logical landing place for a team that was no longer even marginally competitive for the playoffs.

Making matters worse were the reports that Garcia had been taking minimal reps with the first unit prior to McNabb's injury and was therefore completely unequipped to run the offense with any kind of consistency or spark. In a town like Philadelphia, where dark clouds can appear on a bright horizon in a moment's notice, angry storms were the forecast.

All Garcia did was lead the Eagles to five consecutive wins in closing out the regular season, including a grueling stretch of three division road games, producing an extremely improbable division title. Garcia wasn't overpowering in the first-round playoff win over the New York Giants, but he did pilot the team down the field to set up David Akers' game-winning field goal on the last play. Although the Eagles dropped a 27-24 decision to New Orleans a week later, Garcia threw for 240 yards and a touchdown.

Garcia's numbers for the year weren't overwhelming, although he did complete 61.7 percent of his attempts and threw 10 touchdowns compared with just two interceptions. His biggest contribution to the team was leadership. Garcia made Philadelphia become a more complete football team because he was honest enough to admit he wasn't a Superman-type who could save the team by himself. Everybody had to contribute. The coaches saw that. The players came to understand it, and they responded.

"One of the things that I noticed when I was watching from the sidelines was that as great as Donovan is, people rely on him to save them, and they get caught up watching him and expecting him to pull them out of a hole with a big play," Garcia says.

"When I got the opportunity to step in, I told [my teammates] to pick up their level of play. I said, 'I expect every one of you to step up your contribution and level of play.' That's why we were able to go on a six-game winning streak and do those things. The other players started to believe in themselves and weren't just watching a superstar make it happen."

No matter what Garcia has done during his career—and the resume is impressive—he will never be considered a star. More than anything else, he is a survivor and admits to that.

"I have persevered," Garcia says. "I have always found a way to scratch and claw my way to the top or to a level where I am contributing and helping the team."

He is also a competitor who has never accepted second-string status. In 1994, Garcia joined the CFL's Stampeders out of college (San Jose State) as a third-stringer behind Doug Flutie and Steve Taylor. Two years later, he was the starter, thanks to Flutie's departure. In 1998, Garcia and the Stamps won the Grey Cup, an achievement that earned the quarterback a parole from the Great White North and a spot, again, as a backup—this time to Steve Young in San Francisco.

Garcia once more showed staying power. By 2000, he was the starter, following Young's retirement. Garcia threw for 31 touchdowns in 2000 and 32 the following year, becoming the first quarterback in 49ers history to throw 30 or more TD passes in consecutive seasons. While nobody was mentioning his name among the best passers in the league, there was little doubt he was thriving. After his third straight Pro Bowl season in 2002, which included Garcia's major role in the 'Niners erasing a 24-point deficit against the Giants in a first-round playoff win, he slipped a little. His play and production weren't as sharp in 2003 and Garcia became a salary-cap casualty.

Two down seasons in Cleveland (2004) and Detroit (2005) finally led him to Philadelphia, where he was expected to carry the clipboard and prepare the defense as the scout team quarterback. As one might imagine, the energetic Garcia wasn't about to play the role of the submissive backup. Anybody who saw him running from drill to drill or referring to the scout team as the "1A starters" knew that.

"Garcia's not your everyday quarterback," Tampa Bay Coach Jon Gruden says. "This guy's a madman. He's like Mad Max in the huddle. I think our offensive players are in for some culture shock when they get a feel for Garcia."

Garcia's survival instincts have not only served him well on the field, but they've been tested off of it, too. The biggest challenge came after he left San Francisco, when former 49ers teammate Terrell Owens implied in an interview with *Playboy* that Garcia was gay, saying "... if it looks like a rat and smells like a rat then, by golly, it's a rat."

While Garcia didn't consider the accusation a slur, he resented Owens' invasion of his personal life and the implication that the quarterback was not tough or man enough to handle the NFL. Imagine that: one of the biggest troublemakers in recent league history daring to question the fortitude of someone who accomplished what Garcia had—and done so with such dignity. For someone who had spent so much energy building a name and reputation, the entire episode was confusing and draining.

"You get to a point where you think it's not going to end," Garcia says. "I had conversations with my dad and family and friends about when it was going to stop. What do I have to do for people to see I am a certain way?"

Eagles fans saw that last year, and Tampa Bay obviously knows, too. Garcia and Simms will square off throughout the late spring and summer for the opportunity to run the show and, while it's almost certain that a quarterback controversy could develop, Garcia welcomes the opportunity.

"I don't think the [quarterback] position is secure in any way," he says. "That gives me a chance to slide in and compete.

"If I'm going to be the guy, I'm going to showcase myself enough to gain [the team's] confidence and the anointment as starter. It comes down to how comfortable I am to do the things I can do and bring stability to the team."

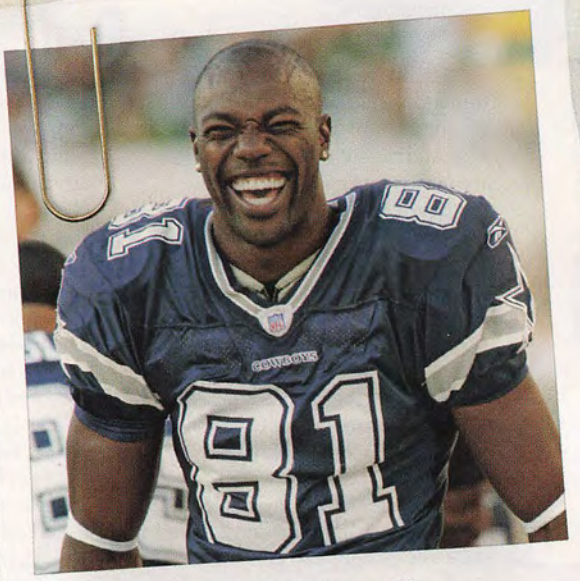
The uniform will be different. And he has a wedding ring on his finger. But despite those big changes, this is the same Jeff Garcia. He'll fight to the end. Don't bet against him, either. The guy just seems to have a way of coming out on top.

OPPOSITE PAGE: HUNTER MARTIN / WIRE IMAGE.COM; PAUL ABELL / TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

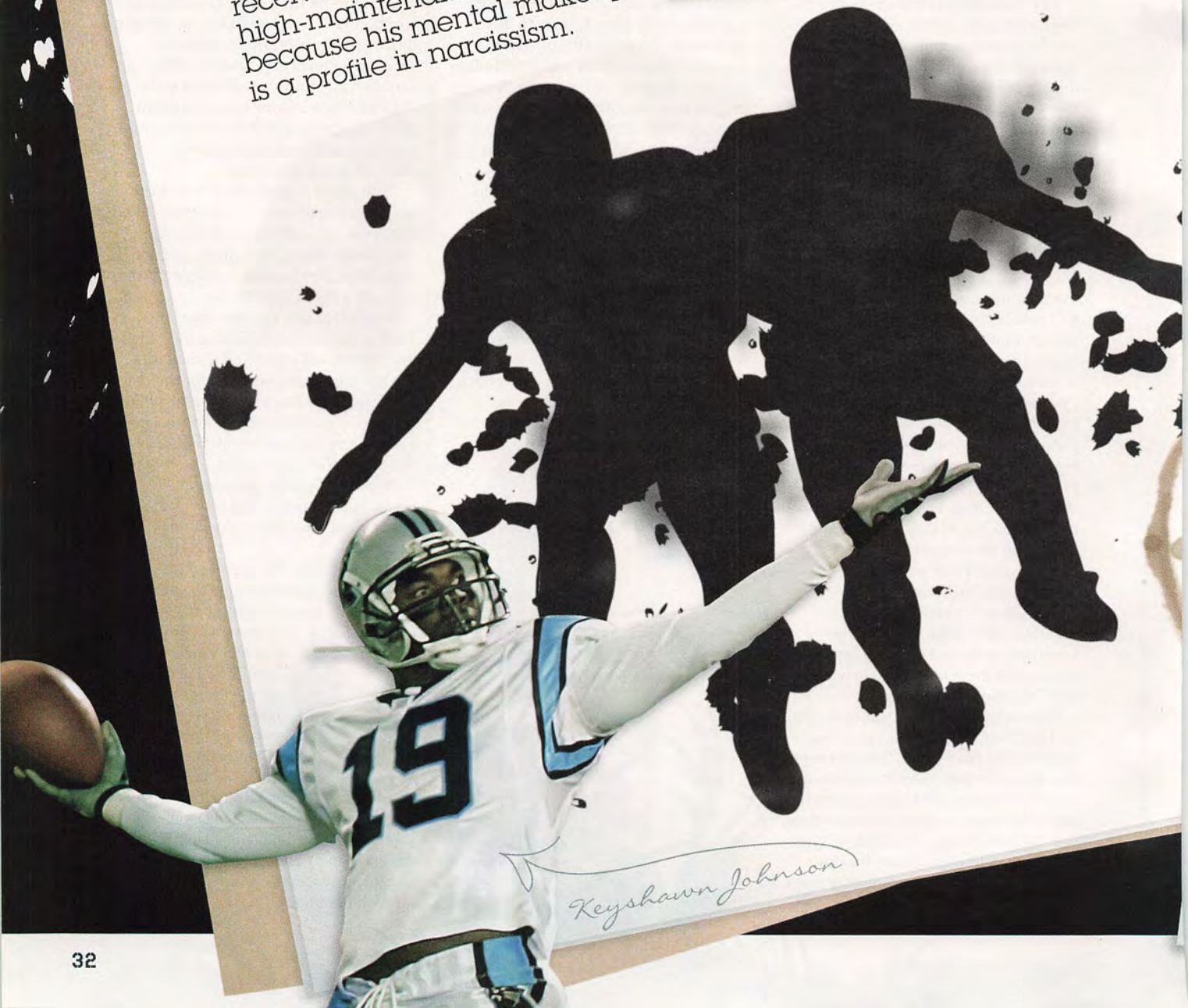
# Psychology of the wideout

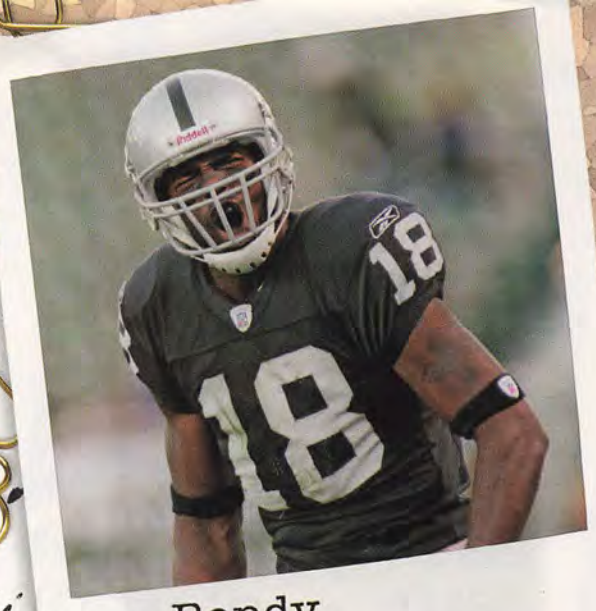
By PAT YASINSKAS
The Charlotte Observer

Analyze this: The wide receiver is the game's most high-maintenance player because his mental makeup is a profile in narcissism.



Terrell Owens





Randy Moss

Chad Johnson was in the middle of a book-signing on a day off from practice when a fan suggested Carson Palmer should throw him the ball more often.

The Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver dropped his pen and picked up his cell phone. He punched in some numbers and handed the phone to the fan, who got to hear the greeting for Palmer's voicemail. Thinking he was missing an important phone call from his teammate, the quarterback promptly called Johnson's phone.

Johnson handed the phone back to the fan, who had both the receiver and quarterback on his fantasy football team. At Johnson's urging, the fan conveyed his original message to Palmer, who said he'd see what he could do.

Johnson beamed. After all, he is a wide receiver.

"The wide receiver is a very special human being. He shares many features with actors and movie stars. He is narcissistic and vain and basically a loner."

That's part of a psychological profile of the wide receiver given by former San Diego Chargers team psychiatrist Arnold J. Mandell.

It doesn't really matter if Johnson is rallying fans to have his quarterback throw him more passes, showing off his Mohawk haircut or sitting at his locker and telling the media which defensive back can't cover him. Johnson fits the profile and he's not alone.

Joe Horn did it when he pulled a cell phone from the goalpost after scoring a touchdown and made a call. Randy Moss does it almost every time he gives an interview and starts ripping his quarterback or coach. Keyshawn Johnson did it when he wrote a book called *Just Give Me The Damn Ball.*

And Terrell Owens seems to do it just about every day, whether he's doing sit-ups for the media in his driveway or holding press conferences to explain an accidental overdose.

"I am always in the middle of a storm," Owens says. "I feel like I am in a storm right now. It comes with the territory."

Yes, when it comes to being the center of attention, wide receivers seem to have all the territory covered.

"They love to be the center of attention," Mandell says. "They need to be noticed. They have an imperviousness in that they don't seem to mind criticism about being like that. All players want the respect of fellow players. Showing off usually is not an admired characteristic by most players, but by wide receivers it is very admired."

## WRITING ON THE WALL

This isn't some new revelation, although the ever-growing media culture we live in may have magnified the outlandish behavior of wide receivers in recent decades. Mandell's profile of the wideout was produced in 1973, a year after he was brought on by Chargers Coach Harland Svare to become the first team psychiatrist in NFL history.

Svare wanted Mandell, then the chairman of the University of California at San Diego's Department of Psychiatry, to produce profiles of players at each position, and the doctor decided to use handwriting samples as a basis.

"Back then, the draft was a lot larger and the scouting wasn't nearly as sophisticated," says Mandell, now 72, semi-retired and living in Asheville, N.C. "The Chargers wanted some form of personality profile and I asked them what we had to work with. They said they had forms that all the players coming out of college had filled out."

Working with French graphologist Noelle Cason, Mandell studied the writing structure of 380 players. He and Cason focused on 38 traits, cross-referenced results with a computer

Chad Johnson

FACING TOP TO BOTTOM: TOM MIHALEK / ICON SMI; ROB TRINGALI / SPORTSCHROME; TOP TO BOTTOM: PHIL CARTER /US PRESSWIRE; MICHAEL HICKEY / WIRE IMAGE.COM

Mark Duper Mark Clayton

and discovered the players grouped nicely by position. In general, the better a player's writing fit with others at his position, the better his chances of having a productive NFL career.

At first, Mandell wasn't sure how much validity the profiles had, but the wide receivers quickly proved him correct.

"I watched players in the locker room and I noticed that the linemen wouldn't brush their teeth and they'd have three days of [beard] growth on their faces," Mandell says. "The wide receivers were just the opposite. They were always combing their hair and looking in the mirror. That's when I knew I was right."

Almost immediately, Mandell noticed receivers were showboats—both on and off the field.

## THEN AND NOW

Mandell takes some pride in the fact his profile results of the wide receiver has held up over time. But the outline might have taken form long before the study.

"If you go back in history and really think about it, the wide receiver has always been a talkative guy who wants attention," says Gil Brandt, the longtime personnel executive for the Dallas Cowboys in the Tom Landry era. "In the '60s, [Kansas City's] Otis Taylor was a talker. In the '70s, we had Tony Hill [in Dallas], who was a colorful guy. Then you had the 'Three Amigos' [Vance Johnson, Mark Jackson and Ricky Nattiel] in Denver, [Miami's] Mark Duper and Mark Clayton, and then Michael Irvin [Cowboys]. As a general rule, you could say the better the player, the more he talks."

Maybe it wasn't as noticeable a few decades ago, but receivers still sought—and received—the spotlight.

When Dan Marino was in his prime with the Miami Dolphins in the mid-1980s, Duper and Clayton were making acrobatic catches and drawing plenty of attention with their flashy nickname, "The Marks Brothers."

A few years after Duper entered the league, it was revealed his real last name was actually Dupas, but he had started using the alias as a teenager. Eventually, Duper went through the legal steps to add "Super" as his middle name.

"It was an absolute circus," recalls a former Dolphins official. "Duper wasn't a bad guy, but he was extremely flamboyant. So was Clayton, and he wasn't a good guy. As a matter of fact, Clayton was generally considered the biggest jerk in the league at the time. Even the third receiver, Jimmy Cefalo, was hosting 'PM Magazine' [a local TV show] while he was playing and wanted to be a media story. It used to drive [Hall-of-Fame Coach Don] Shula nuts."

Shula wouldn't be the first or last coach to get headaches from his receivers.

"They are all flakes, every single one of them," Svare told Mandell back in the '70s. "They sit out there away from the herd; nobody has ever figured them out."

Tell that to Andy Reid, who became so exasperated with Owens that he pushed out perhaps the most talented Eagles receiver in history after the 2005 season. Or tell it to Bill Parcells, who retired from coaching the Cowboys this offseason amid speculation Owens was driving him away from the game.

"You know what? Wide receivers are different," says former NFL defensive back Eugene Robinson, who covered hundreds of them in his 16-year career. "The first great receiver I knew was Steve Largent, and he's viewed as a great guy and he is. But even Steve had something different about him. It's really an arrogance that they all have.

"Jerry Rice and Cris Carter had it. Steve Smith has it and Joe Horn has it; they believe they can beat anybody. But they have to have it. That's what sets them apart from the average cat."

## 'TIPPY-TOE BALLERINAS'

Wide receivers are anything but average, and even they will admit their quirks when pushed.

"Yeah, yeah, I can see some of this," Keyshawn Johnson said as he read Mandell's profile of receivers in the Carolina Panthers locker room last season. "Part of this is true. I can see the movie star or the actor because that's the position that gets the attention. They score the touchdowns and, because of that, they're competing against each other to be seen on television and get on the highlights. The media is attracted to that and they kind of put them on a pedestal and make them larger than what they really are."

Johnson nodded his head several more times and was deep into the profile before finding something he partially disagreed with.

"They don't mind getting hit on the body? No, they don't like getting hurt," Johnson said. "No, they don't like their faces getting touched because they don't want to get hurt. I think the receiver position is tentative. Receivers are tentative. They're like, I don't want to say my daughter, but they're just tentative. They're like tippy-toe ballerinas.

"That's what I think about them even though I play the position. I would love to use other words, but I can't. I think they're soft. They're just all about their fanfare and stars and television hype."

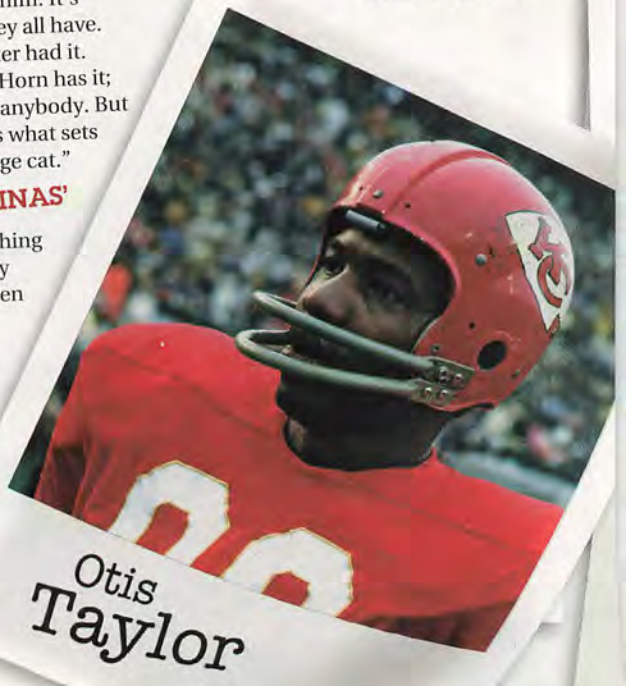
## SELF-CENTERED OR SELFISH?

But wide receivers—at least the best ones, who also seem to be the most vocal and visible—are also about production.

"I've yet to meet a wide receiver who wasn't open," says former QB Steve Beuerlein, who spent 16 years in the NFL and now works as a college and NFL broadcaster for CBS. "In their eyes, they're open all the time. They don't want to even plant a seed in your head that they may not be open."

But Beuerlein is quick to defend the wide receiver in general. So is Robinson. But they both make one exception—Owens.

"You can't just look at T.O when you



Otis Taylor

"If you go back in history and really think about it, the wide receiver has always been a talkative guy who wants attention."
—Gil Brandt, former Dallas Cowboys GM

talk about receivers," Robinson says. "He skews everything. You've got to throw him out of the mix because he's an anomaly or something. He's not the norm."

Owens can't be called the norm for anything. But, as Mandell pointed out years ago, there is a norm for wide receivers.

"I disagree with the part about them not being good teammates," Beuerlein says. "Some of the best teammates I had were receivers. Yeah, Michael Irvin was flashy and all that, but he was a great teammate because he wanted to win more than anything. Do some of them come across as cocky? Sure. But they have to because confidence is at the top of the list of things they need to succeed. There's a difference between being self-centered and selfish.

"The self-centered guy wants the ball and may have an outburst once in a while. But the bottom line is he wants to win. When you're winning they don't make an issue of it. When they have a problem is when they're losing. The selfish guy is only concerned with himself and that's where you run into problems."

*Pat Yasinskas covers the Carolina Panthers for* The Charlotte Observer.

Steve Smith

# Building a team profile

Here are condensed versions of the position-by-position psychological profiles created by former San Diego Chargers team psychiatrist Arnold J. Mandell in 1973:

### Defensive Ends

"Sloppy and casual about detail; relatively undisciplined; joy in attack; anti-social behavior with pride; joyful participation in needling humor."

### Defensive Tackles

"Unbridled wildness; sadistic joy in attacking structure; satirical humor; sloppy and casual about detail."

### Linebackers

"Good citizens, intelligent; killer impulses under control; will kill when given permission, not just for fun of it."

### Defensive Backs

"Hates structure, wants to destroy it. They do it more uninhibitedly up front; the farther back you get, the more guilty they are about it. May be lonely and alienated, even more depression-prone than linebackers."

### Offensive Guards

"Disciplined, tremendously interested in detail. Their anger is one of depression, stubbornness and persistence rather than violent outburst."

### Offensive Tackles

"Very much like the guard, but tends to be not quite as intellectual. Loyal, patient, honest and stubborn. Slower to anger and a little slower of thought and response."

### Centers

"Intelligent, more volatile, affable and gregarious."

### Wide Receivers

"They are interested in looking pretty, being pretty. They are elegant, interpersonally isolated. Wide receivers don't group, they don't mob out. They are actors, uninflected about showing off; individualists, quite interested in their own welfare, their own appearance."

### Tight Ends

"The sum of the offensive line, but there's a lot of wide receiver in the tight end."

### Running Backs

"Withdrawn and difficult to contact; anti-social and angry; paranoid and mistrustful; also playful."

### Quarterbacks

"Has to perform fantastically well under pressure. Subtle nuances of anxiety and guilt have to be dampened out. Two dominant types are successful: the swashbuckling, don't-care people who are impulsive, grandiose, arrogant and limit-testers; and the hyper-religious, the calm of the believer, the chosen one."

FACING (L TO R): RICK STEWART / GETTY IMAGES; MALCOLM EMMONS / US PRESSWIRE; THIS PAGE: CHRIS BERNACCHI / SPORTPICS

The AFC title hardware has been known as the Lamar Hunt Trophy since 1984.

Lamar Hunt oversees the opening of Arrowhead Stadium in 1972.

Remembering Lamar Hunt, 1932-2006

# No surrender

The AFL's visionary founder was driven, soft-spoken and a forgiving sort, but the Minnesota Vikings found out in Super Bowl IV that he wasn't quick to forget.

***By Steve Silverman***

"If they won't let me play, I'll just get my own ball."

A child's frustrated rant?

Perhaps. But in this case it was the mind-set of Lamar Hunt, the American Football League's founder and one of the driving forces behind pro football's surge over the last half-century who passed away at age 74 last December.

Here's how it happened:

Turn the clock back to Dec. 28, 1958. Lamar Hunt was a 26-year-old businessman with a dream. The son of Texas oil magnate H.L. Hunt was a sports fan who was especially captivated by professional football. Lamar had wanted to own a pro team for several years when he sat down in a Miami hotel room to watch the Baltimore Colts play the New York Giants in the NFL Championship Game. For the uninitiated, this is the game that has often been described as the greatest ever played and the one that catapulted pro football to the forefront of American sports.

The Giants hosted this title game in Yankee Stadium and had a pulverizing defense led by middle linebacker Sam Huff. The Colts were a dynamic offensive team with the great Johnny Unitas at quarterback. The two teams put on a dramatic show of what the game could be when played at its highest level. Baltimore tied the game late in the fourth quarter on a short field goal by Steve Myhra and came away with the championship when Alan Ameche powered into the end zone from one yard out to give the Colts a 23-17 overtime victory and the world title.

The game had a mesmerizing impact on Hunt. He had been scheduled to fly back to Dallas late in the afternoon, but missed the flight because he was not going to leave his television while the game went into overtime. Hunt also knew that the rest of the nation wouldn't stop watching.

Hunt took the next plane to Dallas and, during the course of that flight, formulated a plan for the AFL on a notepad. If nobody in the NFL wanted to let him in the club by either awarding him an expansion franchise or letting him purchase an existing one, Hunt would start his own league.

And so he did. The first call he made was to another young Texas businessman named Kenneth S. "Bud" Adams. Hunt wanted his own franchise and knew that Adams did as well.

TOP TO BOTTOM: NFL / WIRE IMAGE.COM; BRIAN BAHR / GETTY IMAGES; NFL / WIRE IMAGE.COM

Hunt told Adams about his plan to start a new league and Adams jumped at the opportunity. Hunt would locate his franchise in Dallas (Texans) and Adams in Houston (Oilers) and the AFL had its first rivalry. All Hunt needed to do was find six more partners and the upstart league would be in business.

Hunt's major interest was in running his own team, not the league as a whole. He contacted NFL Commissioner Bert Bell and told him about the venture and asked him to serve as commissioner of both leagues. Bell, a gregarious sort with an outgoing personality, politely said no but wished Hunt luck in his new venture. Bell actually liked the idea of competition because he knew it would bring nothing but publicity to the sport along with needed growth.

Pro football was thrust into the public spotlight when the All-American Football Conference was competing with the NFL from 1946 through 1949. Even though the AAFC folded after the 1949 season, it gave birth to three of the NFL's stronger franchises in Cleveland, Baltimore and San Francisco. Another league, Bell thought, would bring about a new wave of interest in the game.

But there was no way Bell would be able to sell such an idea to Chicago Bears owner George Halas, one of the NFL's founding fathers. Nothing got done without Halas' approval and Redskins owner George Preston Marshall was equally as adamant. Both had been against expansion and sharing more of the pie with any new owners, so the idea of Bell supporting the AFL would have been viewed as treasonous.

Ironically, though, breaking the news about the new league to the public was Bell himself. He had been asked to testify before a congressional committee that was investigating possible antitrust violations and monopolies in pro football. And at the hearing on July 28, 1959, he wasted no time informing lawmakers of the AFL's plans.

"Right off," Bell said, "I want to tell you fellows about this new league. I can't tell you any of the details, but there are going to be eight or nine cities."

Hunt was flabbergasted. He knew Bell was a decent person who had no ill will for his future competitors, but he didn't think the NFL commissioner would go out on a limb for the new venture.

"At that point no one had put up a penny and I had no commitments from anybody in New York or Los Angeles," Hunt later said. "But Bert Bell, the NFL commissioner, had announced it, had said we were in business."

Bell's public disclosure helped Hunt round up the rest of the new league's owners in a relatively short time. They included

Hunt's presence at practice and on the sidelines was always a given.

Billy Sullivan in Boston, Harry Wismer in New York, Bob Howsam in Denver, Max Winter in Minneapolis, Barron Hilton in Los Angeles and Ralph Wilson in Buffalo.

Minneapolis was considered especially valuable because it was the largest city in the Midwest that didn't have a pro football franchise. As news of the new league's development reached Halas and the other NFL owners, they realized it was more than just a rich boy's pipe dream. The older league went into action.

First, the NFL reversed field and invited Hunt and Adams to join the league with expansion franchises. That's what both men wanted originally, but they had already found partners who had made financial and emotional commitments to the new venture. Standing on principle, Hunt and Adams said no.

The war was on.

Halas met surreptitiously with Winter and his ownership group and convinced them to abandon the AFL and become an NFL expansion franchise. Winter did not tell his partners in the AFL that he was switching horses. He sat nervously at a league dinner meeting in Minneapolis with the other AFL owners when Wismer burst through the doors of the banquet room at the Cedric Adams Hotel with a newspaper in hand. He was clearly angry and upset, and his face was turning a strange shade of purple.

One of the other owners asked Wismer if he was ready to eat.

Wismer hesitated for a second. He paused dramatically and answered the question. "Yes ... and this is the last supper," he yelled. "And there's Judas!"

Wismer lifted his arm and pointed a finger at Winter. He slammed the Nov. 22 edition of the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* on to the table for all of the owners to see. A huge headline blared "MINNEAPOLIS TO GET NFL FRANCHISE."

The hurt and anger were palpable throughout the room, but Hunt did not show his emotions, despite the fact that he knew the NFL was also nearing expansion in his Texas back yard with the formation of the Dallas Cowboys. Hunt carried on in a businesslike manner and kept his feelings to himself. He soon found a new ownership group in Oakland to take the spot vacated by Minnesota.

Hunt carried those feelings of abandonment with him for many years. The AFL would go on to survive its early seasons and begin to thrive in the mid-1960s, but Hunt was forced to move his team to Kansas City and rename them the Chiefs in 1963 because of the growing popularity of the Cowboys in Dallas.

The competition between the AFL and the NFL for players was costing both leagues tons of money and Cowboys General Manager Tex Schramm got the go-ahead from Bell's successor as NFL commissioner, Pete Rozelle, to pursue merger talks with Hunt. The two came to an agreement that would ultimately bring pro football to stratospheric heights.

The leagues decided to have a common draft, a championship game (later known as the Super Bowl, a term coined by Hunt), interleague preseason games and a common schedule beginning in 1970.

The first two Super Bowls saw the NFL's Green Bay Packers register one-sided wins over the Chiefs and Raiders. But the AFL would turn the tables when the Jets registered perhaps the biggest upset in pro football history when they defeated the Colts 16-7 in Super Bowl III.

A year later, Hunt's Chiefs would meet the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV. Not only would this be the last time an official game would be played by an AFL team (the next season the league would become the American Football Conference of the NFL), it was coming against the franchise that had abandoned the new league at its inception.

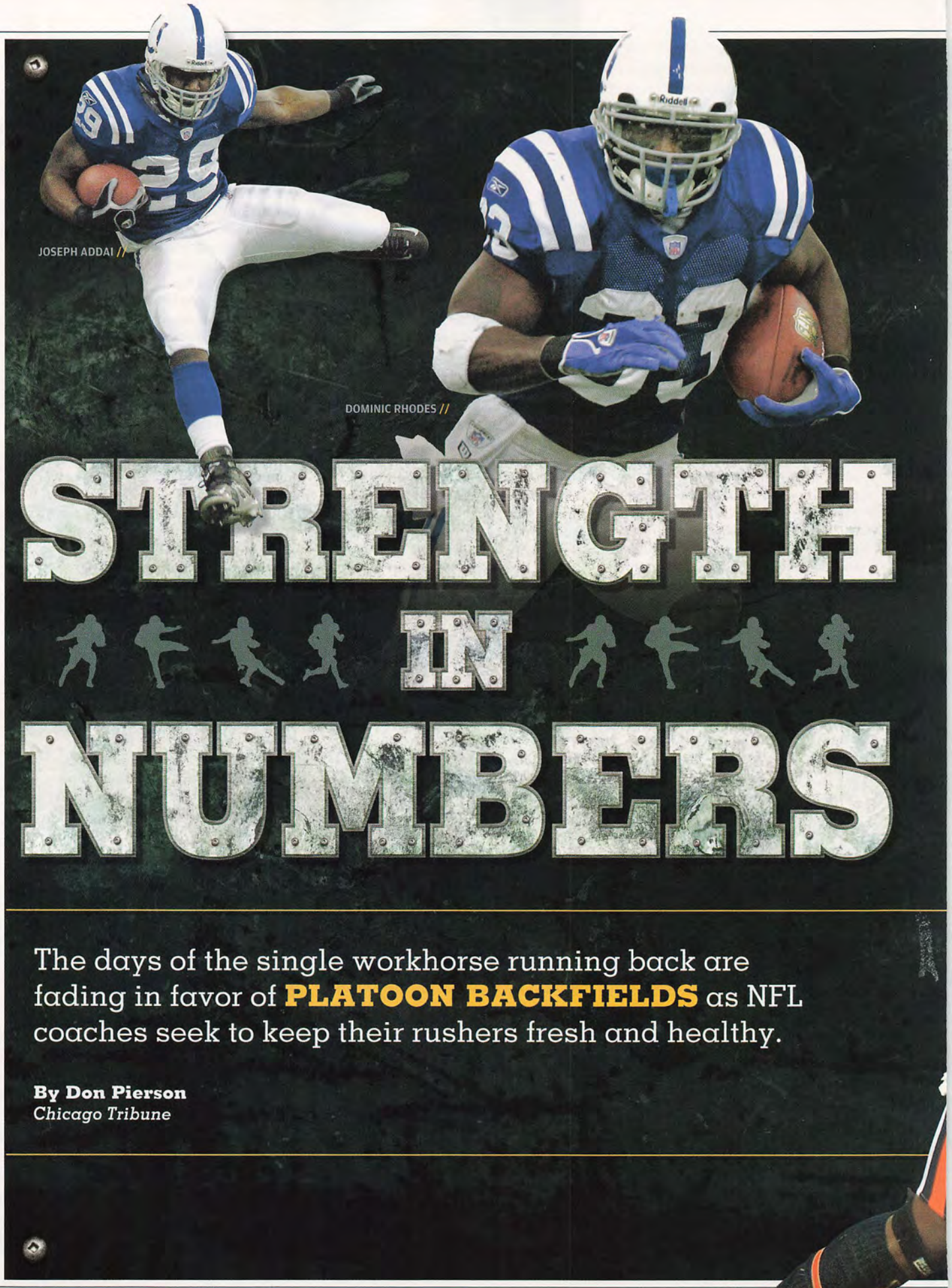
The normally placid Hunt met with his team the night before the game and emotionally told the story of how the Vikings' ownership had stabbed the AFL in the back in those early days.

Hunt's players and coaches were shocked by his outburst and went to war for their beloved leader. The Chiefs not only beat the Vikings 23-7, but they dominated them physically and showed that the AFL was equal to—or possibly better than—the NFL.

The new era of fantastic growth and unforeseen riches was about to begin, thanks in large part to the vision and determination of Hunt. ■

The 'LH' decal that's now worn on the back of the Chiefs' helmets to honor Hunt.

TOP TO BOTTOM: HANK YOUNG; KIRBY LEE / WIRE IMAGE.COM




# STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

The days of the single workhorse running back are fading in favor of **PLATOON BACKFIELDS** as NFL coaches seek to keep their rushers fresh and healthy.

**By Don Pierson**
*Chicago Tribune*

After "timeshare" running backs played big roles for all four teams in last season's conference championship games, NFL franchises began an offseason run on a suddenly very popular position.

If the Indianapolis Colts can finally win a Super Bowl with journeyman Dominic Rhodes and rookie Joseph Addai instead of superstar Edgerrin James, then what's to keep every other team from trying to conquer by dividing the rushing load?

Indeed, the lowly Oakland Raiders lured Rhodes to their 2-14 team shortly after he challenged Peyton Manning for Super Bowl MVP. The New York Jets traded for Thomas Jones, who had enjoyed back-to-back 1,200-yard seasons with the Chicago Bears.

Jones didn't really want to share time anymore with Cedric Benson and the Bears didn't really want to pay two first-rounders to play the same position. So Jones received a new contract in New York, but he'll still find himself sharing time, as last year's exciting rookie, Leon Washington, will get his share of carries.

Stars don't like committees as much as coaches do. But if the success of the Colts hasn't started a full-blown trend, it has certainly caused plenty of copycat maneuvering.

Kansas City's Larry Johnson isn't likely to see much platooning unless his record 416 carries last season wore him out. The point, however, is that most teams don't have a Larry Johnson and, even if they did, they'd fear overworking him.

"I think it's really the bigger, stronger defensive players that you're running up against," explains Colts Coach Tony Dungy. "For a guy to carry the ball as much as Larry Johnson carries it, you've got to be extremely strong. You've got to be fortunate and most people don't have a guy like Larry Johnson who is that physically strong, so you get guys that you can keep fresh. For us, it was knowing that we had a good player in Dominic and we wanted to have Joseph Addai going well in the playoffs and we didn't want him to have 300 carries in the regular season when he'd been a 180-carry guy in college."

> For a guy to carry the ball as much as **LARRY JOHNSON** carries it, you've got to be extremely strong. You've got to be fortunate and most people don't have a guy like Larry Johnson who is that physically strong, so you get guys that you can keep fresh.
>
> *Tony Dungy // coach, Indianapolis*

// LARRY JOHNSON

So Addai ended up with 226 rushing attempts and Rhodes 187 for the regular season. In the Super Bowl, Rhodes had 21 rushes for 113 yards and Addai 19 for 77. The Bears had similar Super Bowl plans for Jones and Benson until Benson twisted a knee on his second attempt against the Colts and left Jones to fend for himself.

Now that Rhodes and Jones have left their teams, don't expect the Colts or Bears to become one-man gangs like Johnson and the Chiefs. They have other alternatives and intend to continue the tag-team approach.

The number of true workhorse backs in the league has remained stable for several years. There were only 10 backs who carried the ball 300 or more times last season, which was the same number as in 2001. There were 13 in 2003, nine in 2002 and 2004 and 10 in 2005. So most teams usually do try to spell their lead runners. The trend is for teams to do more than just provide rest or a change of pace. Teams now want two backs who can hurt a defense. In the Super Bowl, the Bears would have voted for Addai as MVP until Rhodes passed him up. They were both gashing what Chicago thought was a pretty good run defense.

"We have two different running styles and the defense just can't look to defend one style," Rhodes said. "They have to defend both of us and it is hard when our offensive line is blocking well for us."

Last season, there were 39 backs in the league who carried the ball more than

OPPOSITE PAGE (L TO R): JOHN RIEGER / US PRESSWIRE; MARK COWEN / ICON SMI
(L TO R): DAVID DUROCHIK; BRYAN YABLONSKY / SPORTSCHROME; WD / ICON SMI

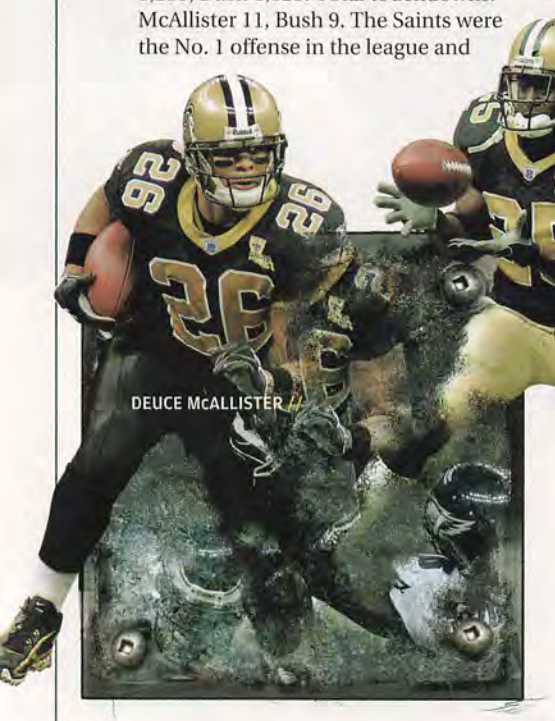
// THOMAS JONES

// LEON WASHINGTON

150 times, up from 35, 32, and 31 the previous three seasons. So, teams are giving more backs more chances.

When the New Orleans Saints drafted Reggie Bush, everybody was curious about how Coach Sean Payton would keep both Bush and veteran Deuce McAllister happy. The way it turned out, Payton must have used a calculator and a pharmacist's scale to create near-perfect chemistry.

In rushes, McAllister had 244 to Bush's 155. In pass receptions, Bush had 88 to McAllister's 30. Bush added 28 punt returns. Total touches: McAllister 274, Bush 271. Total yards: McAllister 1,255, Bush 1,523. Total touchdowns: McAllister 11, Bush 9. The Saints were the No. 1 offense in the league and Payton was Coach of the Year.



DEUCE McALLISTER //

REGGIE BUSH //

Payton had paid attention to how USC used Bush and LenDale White when they dominated college football out of the same backfield from 2003-05.

"Over that three-year period, they had success and there was a good balance between him and White and he stayed healthy," Payton recalls.

But Payton admits that the balancing act doesn't always make play-calling easy. The Saints constantly have to guard against the stereotyping of Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside.

"I'm always fighting with Reggie and Deuce," Payton says. "It's not just Deuce running off tackle and Reggie running outside. Deuce needs to run outside, or at some point those gaps inside are going to become more problematic. Reggie needs to be able to run off tackle—not all the time—but it's just that tendency of what we're doing when the player is in there. That's the challenge."

In 2004, Washington's Clinton Portis carried 343 times. In 2005, he had 352 attempts. Coach Joe Gibbs has always loved workhorse backs, dating back to his constant feeding in the early 1980s of John Riggins, who led the Redskins to the 1983 Super Bowl title. Last season, however, Portis got hurt and carried only 127 times. Ladell Betts, who never had more than 90 attempts in four previous seasons, got 245 tries and gained 1,154 yards, with a 4.7-yard average. He changed Gibbs' outlook on the position.

"I think certainly down the stretch that we saw the last four teams in the playoffs all had two running backs," Gibbs says. "It's a big load. You think about those running backs; those guys get hit now. It's punishment."

Gibbs says that in years past the rotation was pretty much left up to the players. If Portis got tired, he'd let Betts play.

"He's done that because he likes Ladell, and they're a good team," Gibbs says. "I think it'll be like that. But probably [Ladell] will get more action. Ladell can do a lot of things for us. He's run back kickoffs and he's a real good third-down back. I think it will probably be more balanced between the two [this season]."

The Baltimore Ravens didn't have much balance with Jamal Lewis last year, even though they added Mike Anderson from Denver. Talented Musa Smith got hurt again and Lewis ended up with the load in 2006, but averaged only 3.6 yards a carry. So the Ravens have turned to Willis McGahee, who averaged only 3.8 yards per carry last year in Buffalo, which wasn't enough to convince the Bills to keep him.

Will there be any difference? The Ravens re-signed Smith but lost Lewis (Cleveland) and blocking back Ovie Mughelli, so look for more one-back, two-tight-end sets in Baltimore. But also expect McGahee to share more time with Smith and Anderson.

In Oakland, where the Raiders had the worst offense in the league, adding Rhodes upgrades first-year Coach Lane Kiffin's team whether the ex-Colt shares time with LaMont Jordan or not.

"Rhodes is a great competitor," Kiffin says. "First guy in, last guy to leave, always wanting coaching. Number two, [we] needed competition. That brings out the best in any profession, especially when you're dealing with athletes. I think LaMont was kind of sitting in a situation where there wasn't much competition for him. We needed to get competition at that spot immediately. Dominic brings that."

CLINTON PORTIS //

I think certainly down the stretch that we saw the last four teams in the playoffs all had two running backs," Gibbs says. "It's a big load. You think about those running backs; those guys get hit now. It's **PUNISHMENT.**

*Joe Gibbs*
*coach, Washington //*

Nobody has been more successful with revolving running backs than the Denver Broncos. They haven't had a 300-carry back since Terrell Davis 10 years ago. Discarding leading rushers has become almost an annual rite, as if they arrive with a warranty the Broncos don't want to see expire.

Anderson, Portis, Olandis Gary, Reuben Droughns and now Tatum Bell have all led the Broncos in rushing and then departed the following year. This offseason, Denver signed the Titans' Travis Henry, who will now share the load with Mike Bell. Tatum Bell is off to Detroit, where he will rotate with T.J Duckett and Kevin Jones.

After a stop in Cleveland, Droughns has landed with the Giants, where he and Brandon Jacobs will see if they can team up to replace retired Tiki Barber.

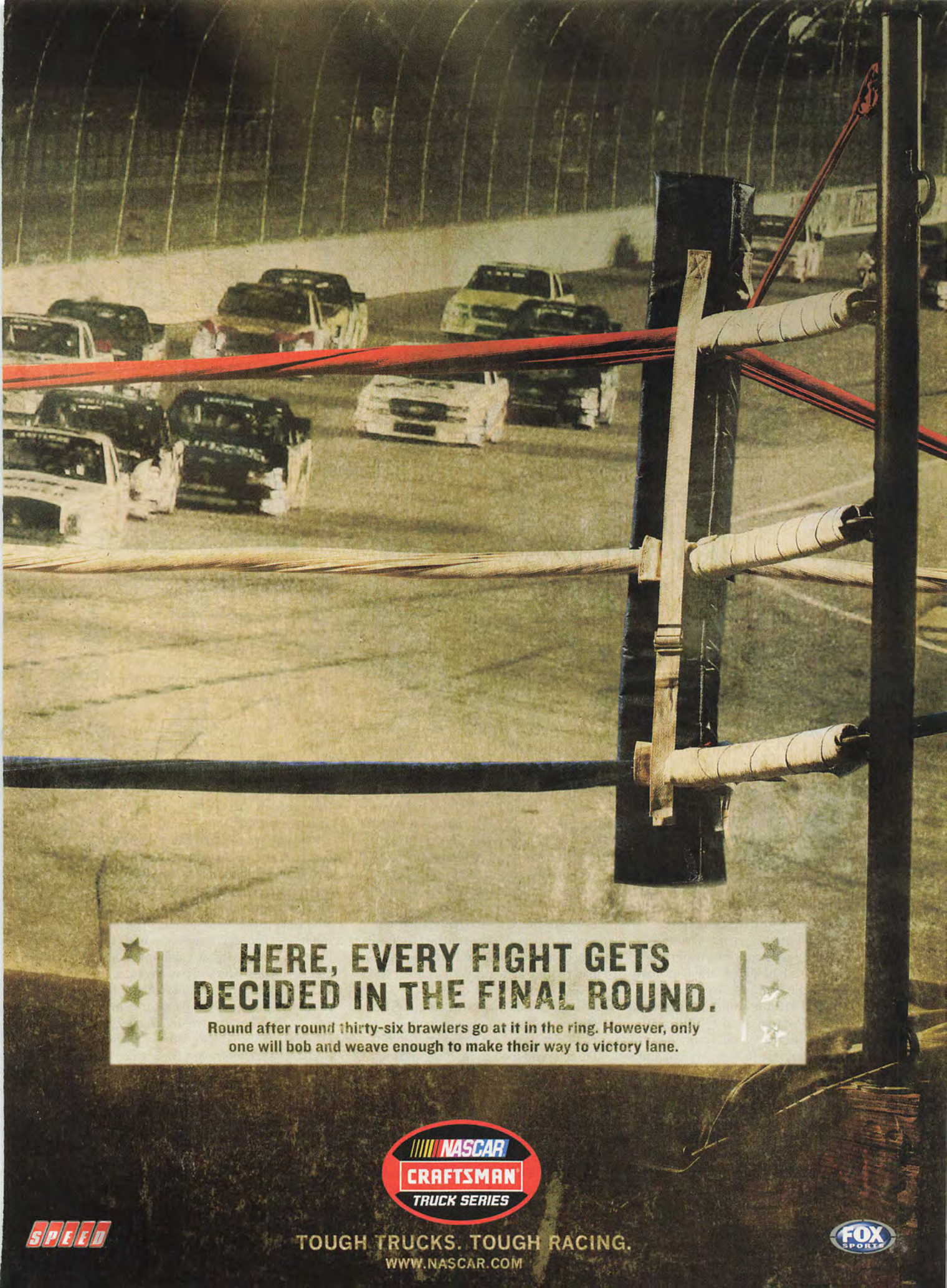
Barber was one of only five elite running backs in the league last season to gain more than 1,500 yards, joining LaDainian Tomlinson, Johnson, Frank Gore and Steven Jackson. Gore, Tomlinson and Barber all compiled per-carry averages of at least five yards.

Only five other backs carried more than 300 times: Pittsburgh's Willie Parker, Cincinnati's Rudi Johnson, Minnesota's Chester Taylor, Arizona's James and Baltimore's Lewis.

Of those 10 backs, however, only four of their teams made the playoffs: San Diego with Tomlinson, Kansas City with Johnson, the Giants with Barber and Baltimore with Lewis.

None of them won a playoff game.

(L TO R): JOHN DAVID MERCER / US PRESSWIRE; THOMAS E. WHITTE / GO PHOTOGRAPHY; RANDY LITZINGER / ICON SMI; JIM ROGASH / WIRE IMAGE.COM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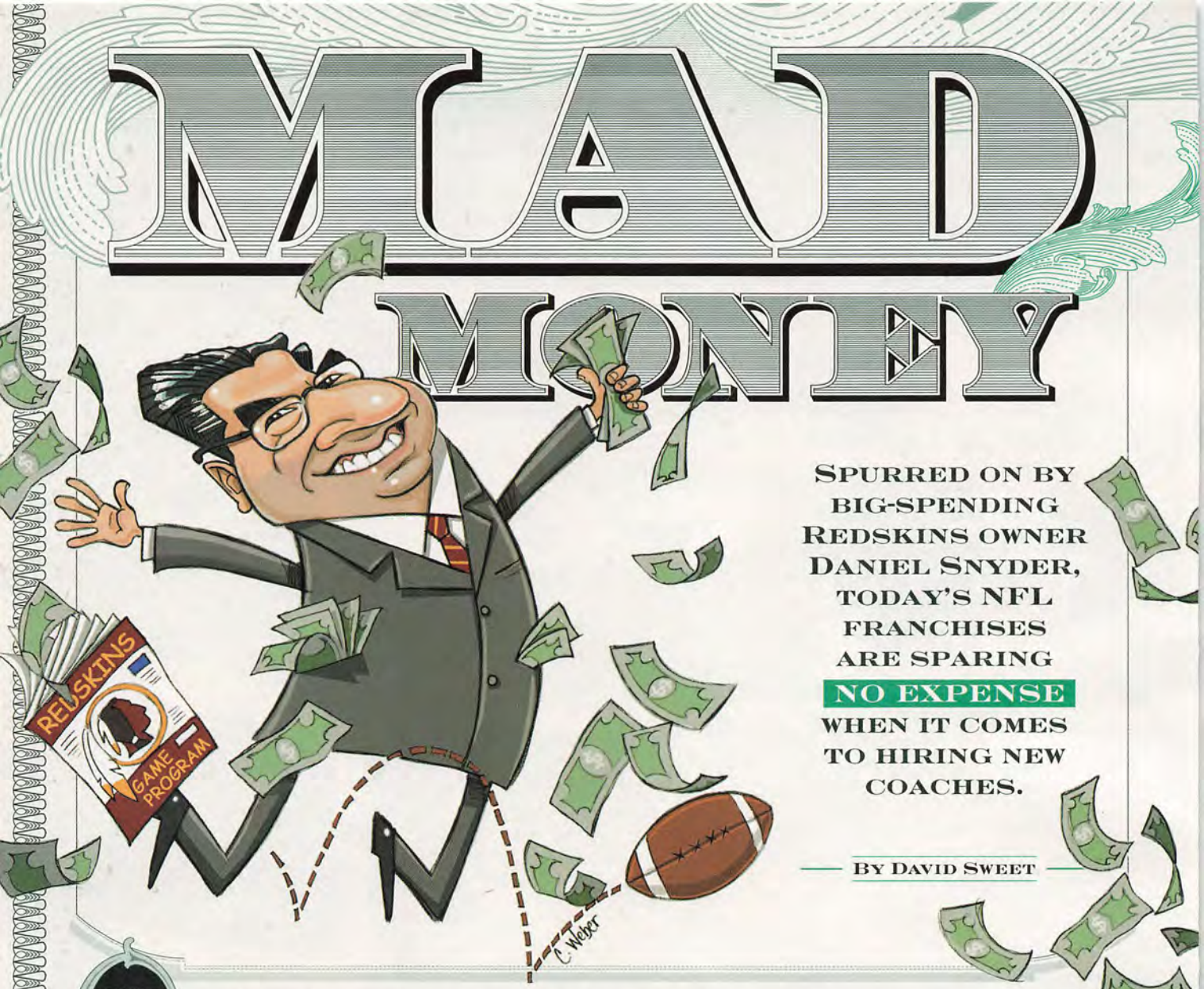


**SPURRED ON BY BIG-SPENDING REDSKINS OWNER DANIEL SNYDER, TODAY'S NFL FRANCHISES ARE SPARING NO EXPENSE WHEN IT COMES TO HIRING NEW COACHES.**

BY DAVID SWEET

The candidate's background hardly seemed attractive enough to merit a starting yearly salary of nearly $5 million.

A three-year stint as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for the Jacksonville Jaguars at the turn of the century comprised Bobby Petrino's National Football League coaching experience. Granted, he had just led the University of Louisville to impressive records from 2003-06, but would that justify an NFL head-coaching salary close to 10 times higher than what Jimmy Johnson received the year he won his first Super Bowl as coach of the Cowboys?

Welcome to the world of skyrocketing head-coaching salaries in pro football. Though Petrino's five-year, $24 million contract with the Atlanta Falcons may seem a high price to pay for an inexperienced coach, multimillion-dollar packages are the norm these days. While many salaries for NFL head coaches are tough to nail down because they often aren't reported publicly the way player salaries are, stories in various newspapers and television outlets suggest that Seattle's Mike Holmgren will make $8 million this season. Baltimore's Brian Billick is expected to average more than $5 million per season through 2011, and new San Diego Coach Norv Turner is said to have signed a contract that will pay him north of $3 million a year. Not bad money for a guy with a career NFL head-coaching mark of 59-83-1.

Less than 15 years ago, none of the biggest names among pro football coaches—Johnson, Don Shula, Bill Parcells and Joe Gibbs—was making even $2 million a year. Yet when Parcells joined Dallas in 2003, he was able to ink a four-year, $17.1 million package. Gibbs is believed to be making $5.7 million a year in his second stint with the Redskins. To look at it another way, Chicago Coach Lovie Smith, the lowest-paid NFL coach in 2006 at $1.35 million (before he signed a four-year, $22 million extension this offseason), would have been one of the NFL's highest-paid coaches in 1993.

Why are salaries soaring? A perfect storm of factors has gathered, including free agency and the salary cap, which has prompted frequent roster changes that increase the importance of a coach who can provide a stabilizing, inspiring influence. The league now also has a new breed of owners, led by Washington's Daniel Snyder, who will pay any price to win. Finally, teams are flush with money from new stadiums and the NFL's massive TV contract and, whereas owners are limited in what they can pay players because of the salary cap, there's no ceiling on coaching salaries.

Michael MacCambridge, author of *America's Game: The Epic Story of How Pro Football Captured a Nation*, also points out that the job of an NFL coach has changed tremendously since Hank Stram and Weeb Ewbank prowled the sidelines in the 1960s and 1970s for the Chiefs and Jets, respectively.

JIMMY CRIBB / WIRE IMAGE.COM



ILLUSTRATION BY CAMILLE WEBER

"You now have free-agency signings, which [former Cleveland Browns and Cincinnati Bengals Coach] Paul Brown didn't have to deal with, and minicamps, which Vince Lombardi didn't have to deal with, and the draft in April rather than January, which demands much more prep time than George Halas ever gave it," MacCambridge says. "In terms of time and pressure, it is a much more demanding job than it used to be.

"The coach is the CEO of the modern football franchise. The coach is responsible for the on-field implications of every dollar spent, every action by a player, every choice made in the draft."

Adds David Carter, executive director of the Sports Business Institute at the University of Southern California: "What I find interesting about coaches' salaries and their escalation is that hiring the top coaches may offer a subtle, yet incredibly meaningful, benefit to the team's performance. Because a salary cap exists, if the money [offered to players by teams] is the same, the tipping point just might be the coach, his history of winning and his relationship with the players."

A dozen NFL teams were contacted for this article to discuss the issue of rising salaries for head coaches. They either did not respond to phone calls and e-mails or declined to be interviewed, perhaps because the nature of the topic is too sensitive to tackle.

That doesn't mean former coaches won't comment, however. Jim Dooley was a former first-round draft choice of the Chicago Bears and then served as head coach of the team from 1968-71. Dooley took the reins from legendary Bears Coach George Halas, also a co-founder of the NFL.

Back in the late 1960s, Dooley visited Halas' apartment to discuss money for his new job. Handed a contract to lead one of the NFL's premier franchises, Dooley received an offer that was laughable compared with today's paychecks.

"He gave me a five-year contract at $35,000 per year," Dooley recalls. "There was not even an increase each year. He had at least 25 sheets of paper of what I could not do. I couldn't do a TV show or commercials. No radio shows. No write-ups for papers."

The former Bears coach who just watched Smith sign an extension for well over 100 times Dooley's annual pay is amazed at the burgeoning salaries within all levels of the NFL, and those for head coaches are no exception.

"It's beyond description because it keeps leaping," Dooley says. "If George Halas were still alive, he'd have a heart attack."

Head-coaching salaries rose steadily through the 1990s, but the watershed moment may have been when Steve Spurrier, a successful college coach at the University of Florida who was untested in the NFL, agreed to a deal worth $5 million a year with the Redskins in 2002.

## HITTING THE JACKPOT

*The NFL's highest-paid coaches for the 2007 season:*

Once Snyder proved he would pay any amount to win, other owners were obliged to try to follow. (The new value of coaches was highlighted around the same time when Tampa Bay paid $8 million to Oakland just so Jon Gruden could coach the Buccaneers.)

As Snyder discovered, increased salaries in Division I-A college football (which fields well over 100 teams) has helped boost NFL coaching rates. After being lured to the Miami Dolphins in 2004 following a national championship at LSU, Nick Saban bolted the franchise after two seasons to accept a $4-million-a-year package from the University of Alabama in January.

A few other college head coaches, such as Notre Dame's Charlie Weis and Florida's Urban Meyer, pull in multimillion-dollar annual salaries, making it an expensive proposition to attract them to the pros.

NFL assistant coaches are enjoying the benefits of their bosses' riches as well. When Saban was hired by Miami in 2005, he reportedly paid former offensive coordinator Scott Linehan (who became the head coach of St. Louis a year later) more than $800,000 a year, a big jump over the typical assistant's salary when Dave Wannstedt was the Dolphins' head coach. And in Washington (where else?) last season, Snyder shelled out about $2 million a year for top offensive assistant Al Saunders and roughly $2.5 million annually for Defensive Coordinator Gregg Williams.

How high can salaries go in the next decade? Carter says he sees no limit.

"A coach's value may extend beyond economic considerations, as the right coach can help build a team's brand," he says. "Salaries will grow—and grow dramatically—as long as coaches are delivering returns."

In 2006, *Forbes* tried to assess those returns. Using a formula based on salary compared to win/loss percentage with a team over the years, the magazine estimated that Pittsburgh's Bill Cowher was the best bargain, while Arizona's Dennis Green proved to be the worst. Cowher retired beloved by Steelers Nation after last season, while Green was fired.

So, though coaching salaries have escalated dramatically, an iron rule (purported to be said by an NFL head coach who made $50,000 a year when he started with Green Bay) remains constant:

Winning isn't everything; it's the only thing—the only thing that will guarantee stratospheric paychecks.

Street & Smith's *contributor David Sweet lives in Lake Forest, Ill., and can be reached at dafsweet@aol.com.*

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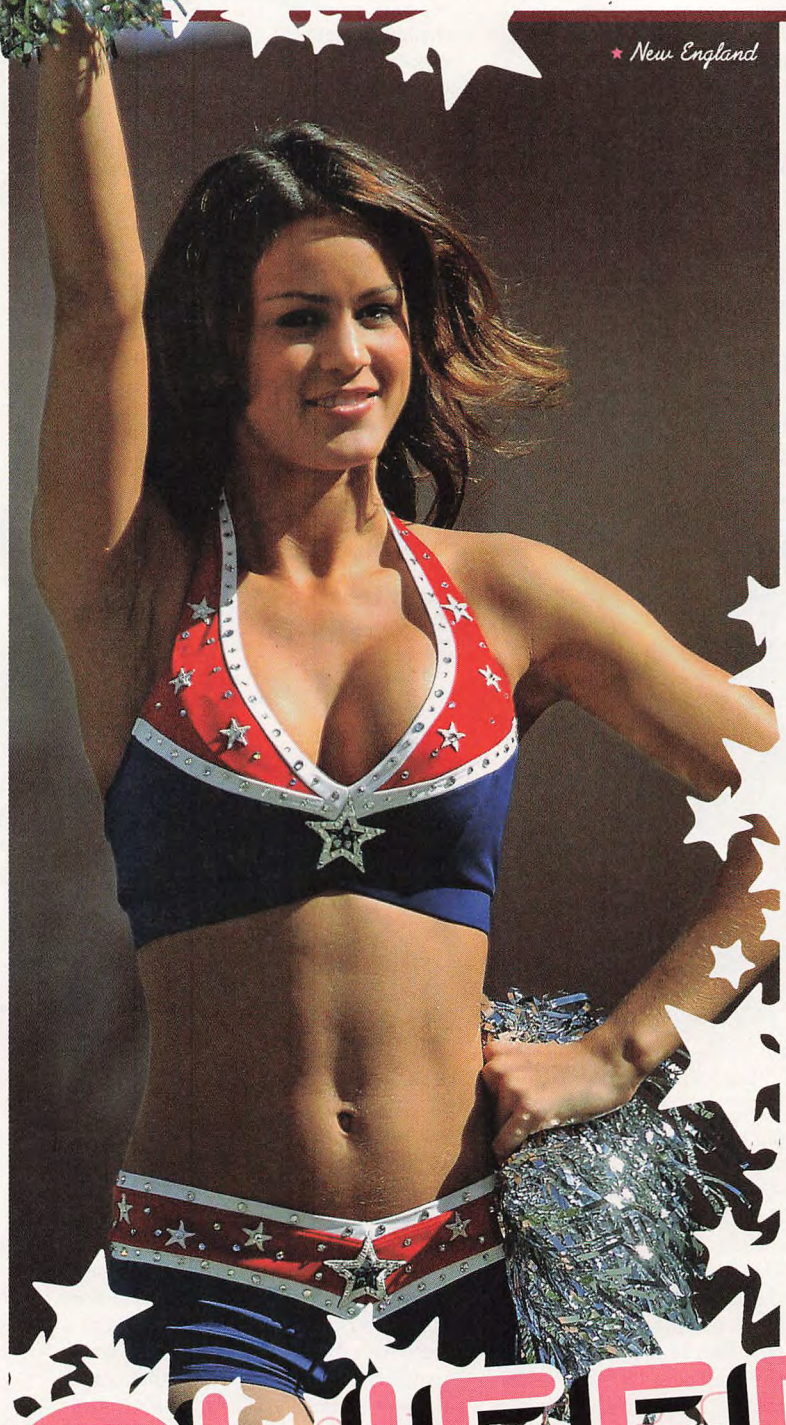
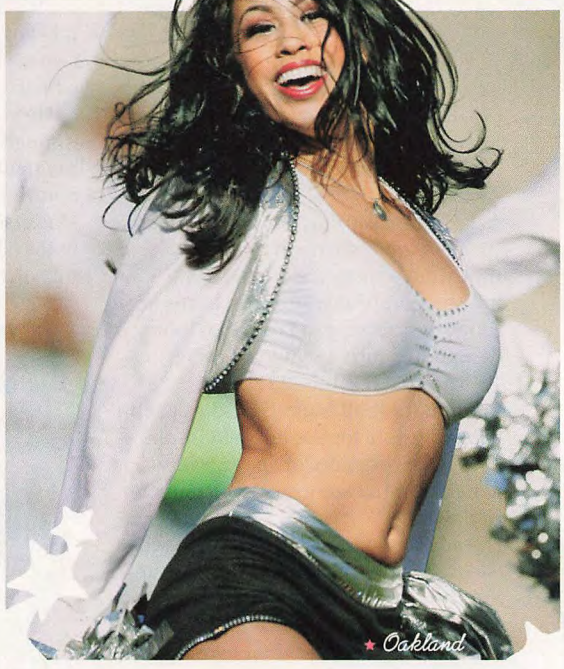
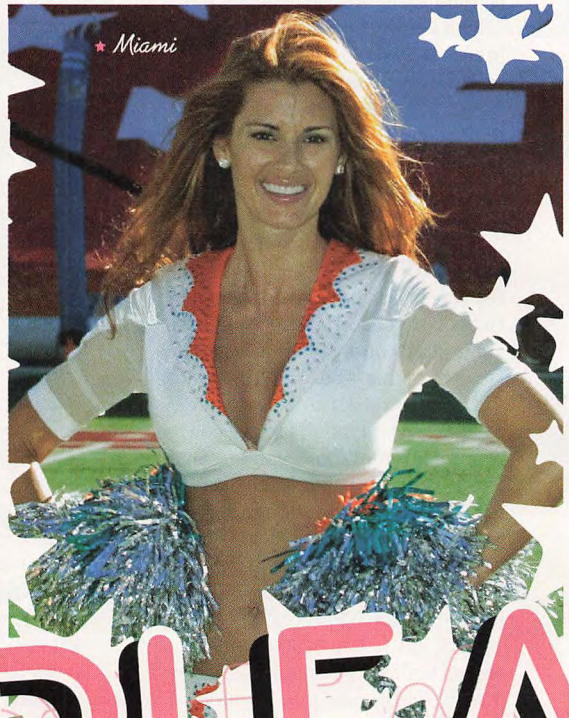
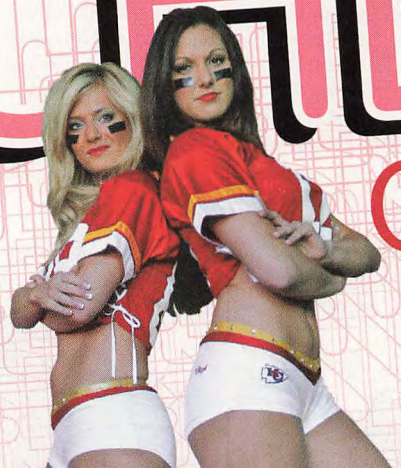



# CHEERLEA

## OF THE NFL



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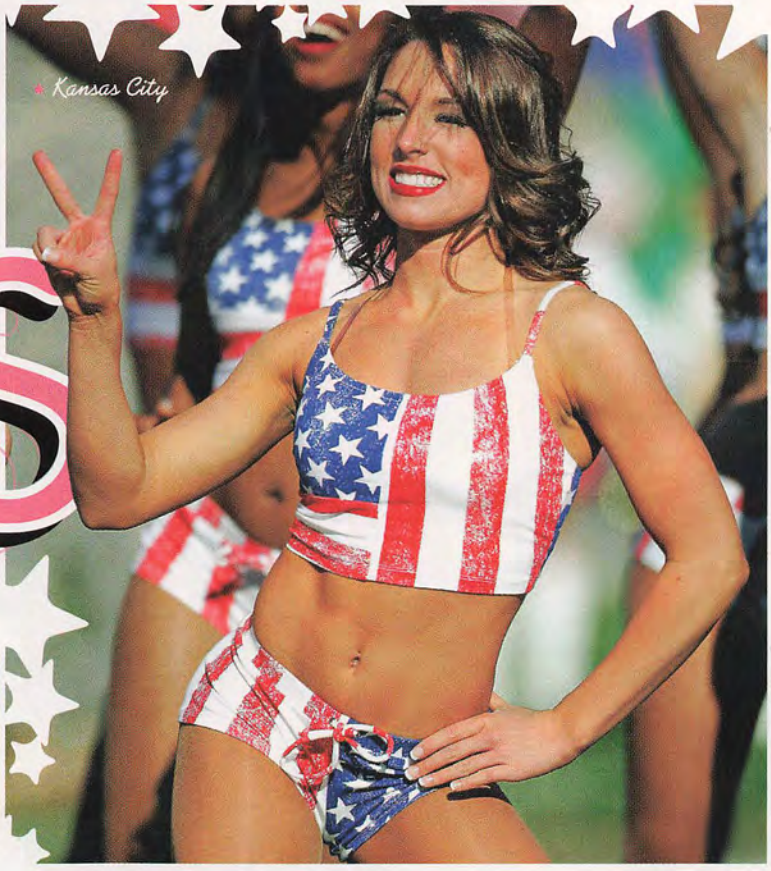
★ Baltimore

DERS



★ Kansas City

★ Tennessee

San Diego

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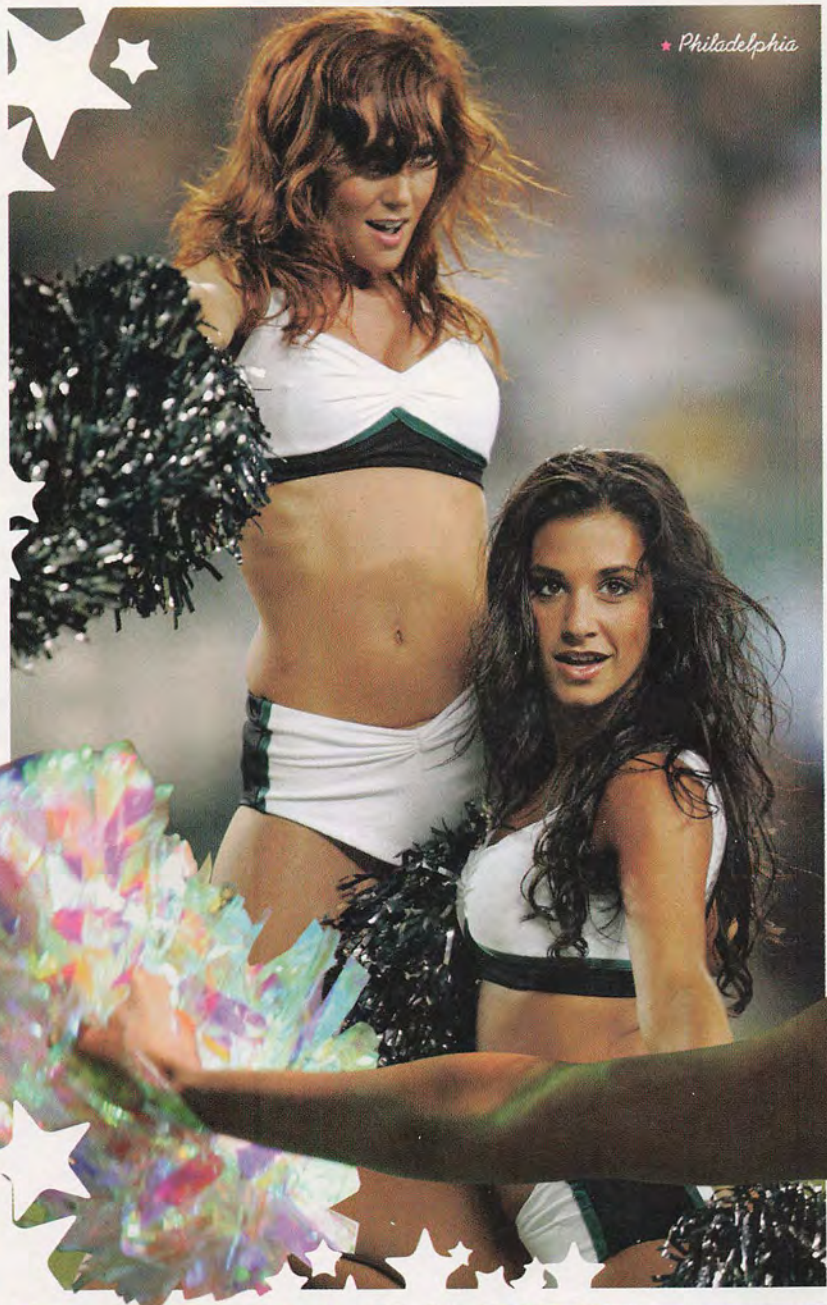

Philadelphia

Tampa Bay

Atlanta

Arizona

New Orleans

Carolina

Washington

Seattle


St. Louis


Minnesota

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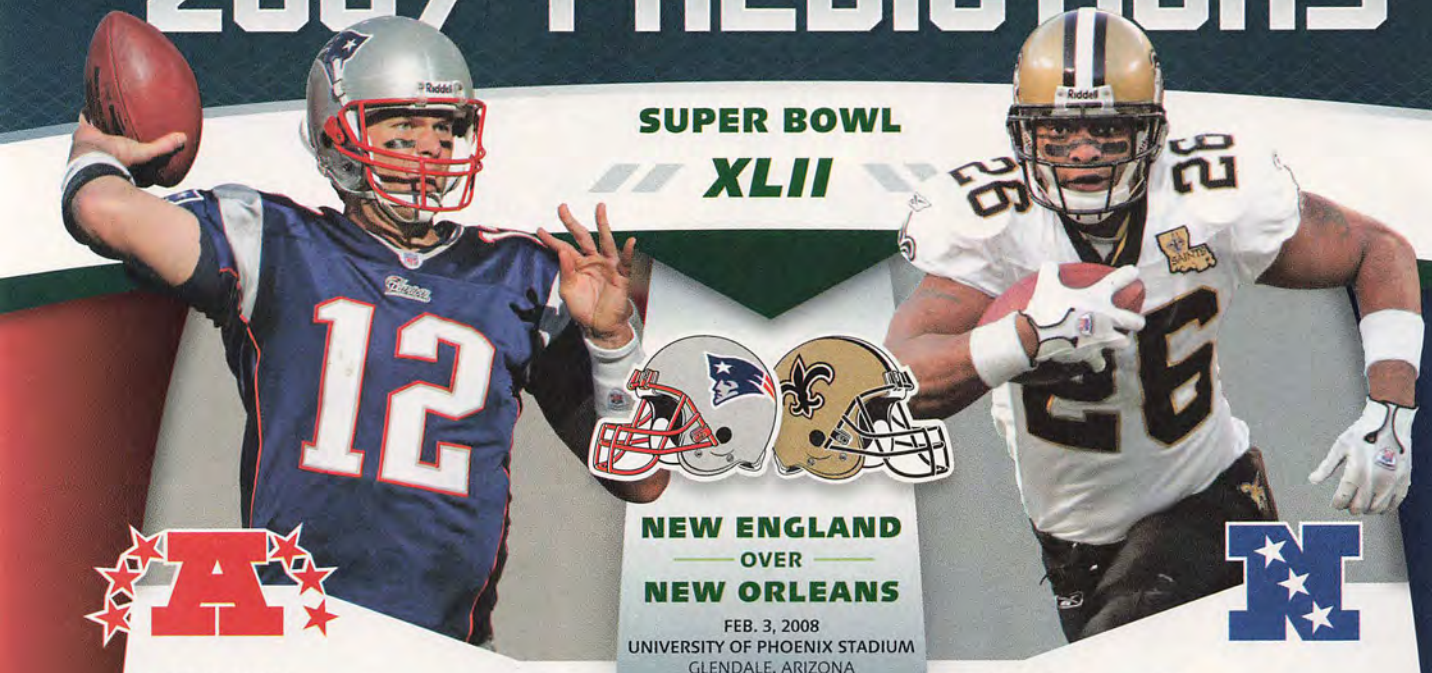

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AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

***NEW ENGLAND OVER SAN DIEGO***

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

***NEW ORLEANS OVER CHICAGO***

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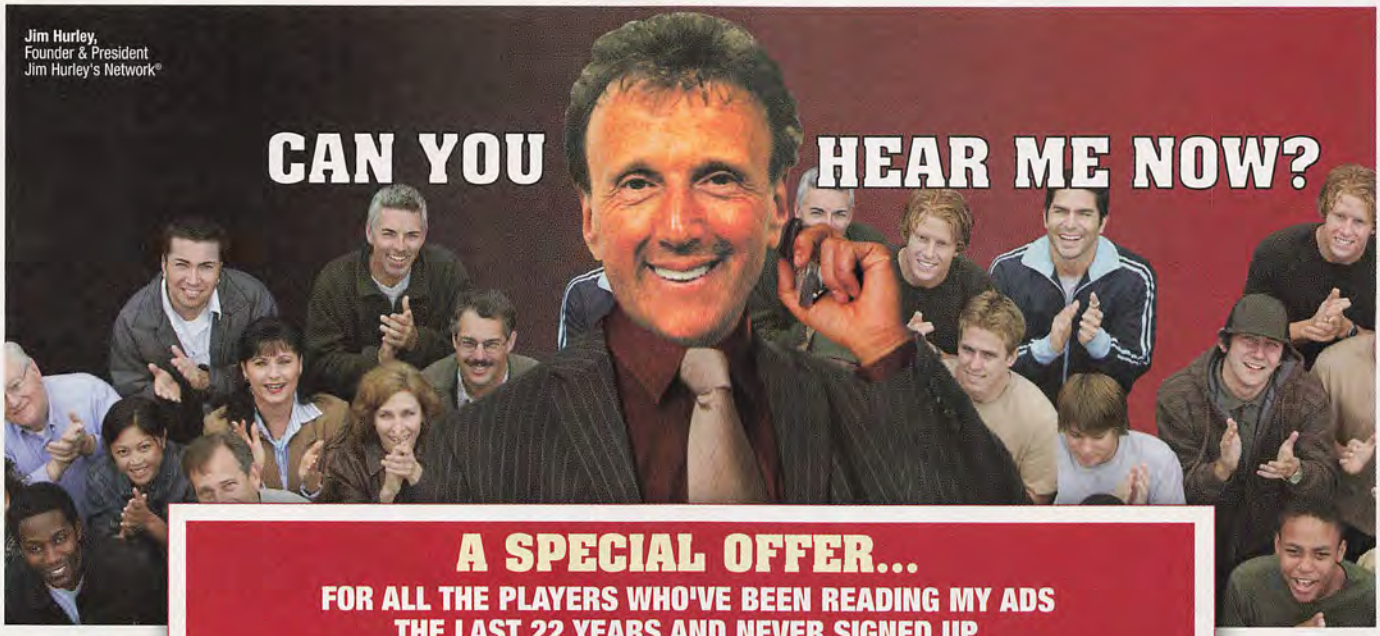


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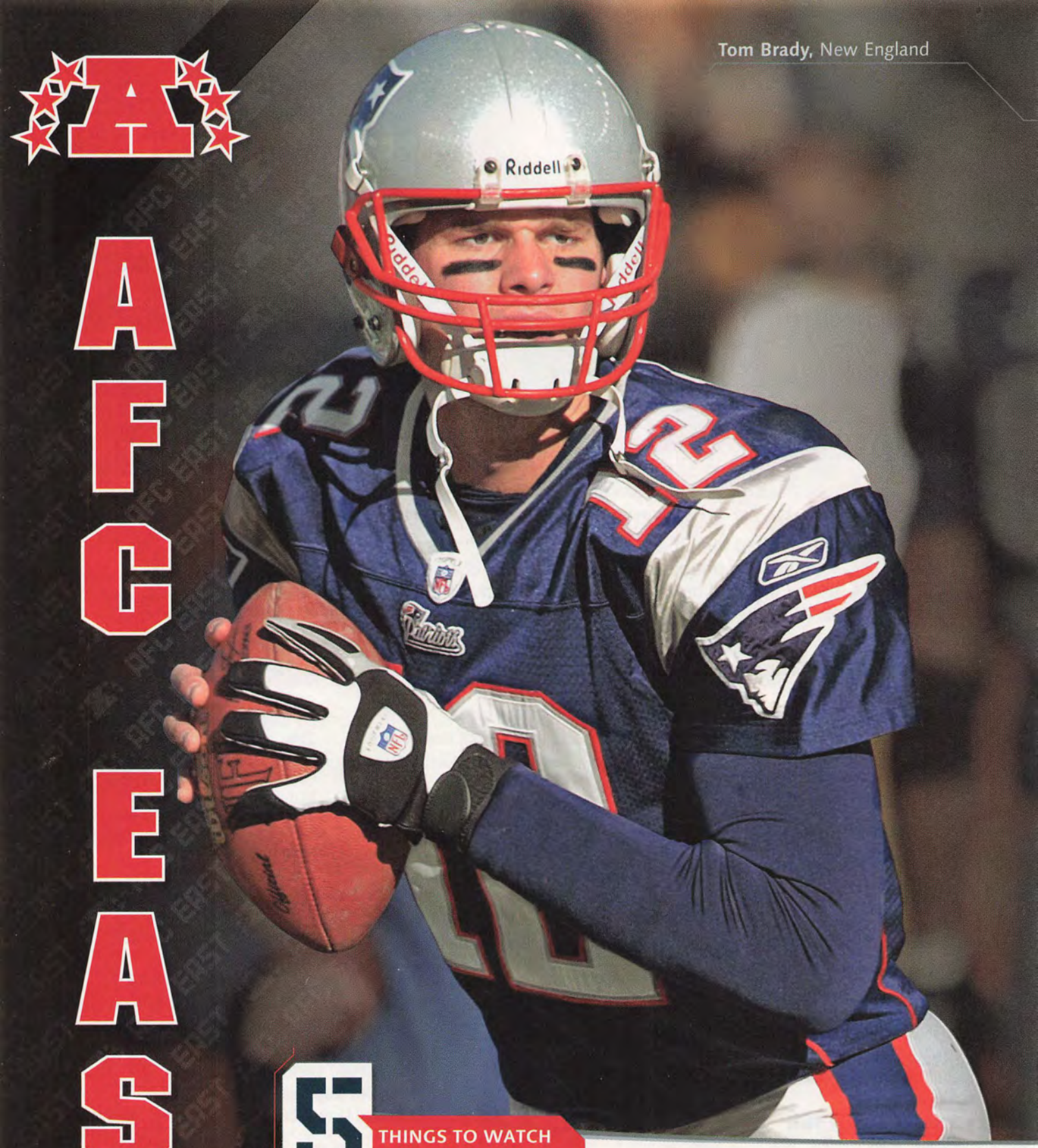
# AFC EAST




**Tom Brady,** New England

## 5 THINGS TO WATCH

**1** New England stepping out of character. After losing in the playoffs the past two seasons, the Patriots were big spenders in free agency, bringing in Baltimore sackmaster Adalius Thomas and trading for receiver Randy Moss. Let's see if the change of philosophy works.

**2** Will Thomas Jones be a difference-maker for the Jets? New York brought in the yardage-eating tailback from Chicago in a deal that looks, on paper, to be a slam dunk. New York made great strides last season without an experienced runner. What will they do with one?

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## Patriots' newfound free-spending may help hold off hard-charging Jets

By Bill Williamson, *The Denver Post*

The New England Patriots recognized that Tom Brady actually needs receivers, so they spent money this offseason.

There's no doubt the Patriots are improved, and that's not good news for the rest of the AFC East.

But the New York Jets and their instant-splash coach aren't scared.

And that's probably why New England's brass felt the need to get busy this winter. Indeed, the Patriots have more to worry about than the Colts in the AFC. Indianapolis, of course, has figured out how to beat the Pats, overtaking them to become Super Bowl champions. However, before the Patriots set their sights on Peyton Manning again, they have to stave off the rising Jets.

It seems to be a two-team race in the AFC East. New England is elite, New York is up-and-coming, while Miami and Buffalo are treading water.

"We liked what we did last year," Jets Coach Eric Mangini says. "But we still have to keep growing."

If the Jets grow this year at the same pace they did last season in Mangini's maiden voyage, Joe Namath will have some company in Jets lore.

OK, Mangini the Magic Man has a ways to go, but there's a ring-fitting party set to go in Long Island, as the boyish protégé of New England Coach Bill Belichick proved he was worthy of a head-coaching job last year.

That's why the story in the AFC East this year will center around the Jets and Patriots.

It was no coincidence the NFL schedule-makers penciled in these two teams to open the season at the Meadowlands Sept. 9.

The New England dynasty was built on Belichick's mind and Brady's savvy. However, after the team lost in the playoffs the past two years, the game plan has changed some.

The Patriots believed they needed to buy talent and be more than just the Belichick and Brady Show. New England jumped right into the free-agent pond by landing one of the biggest fish in pass-rusher supreme Adalius Thomas. Then they stole draft-weekend headlines by trading for receiver Randy Moss, who at 30 still may have some gas in the tank after two disappointing years in Oakland. Moss gives Brady a legitimate home-run threat for the first time in his career.

Thomas was arguably the most talented player available in free agency. Getting those types of players usually isn't in Belichick's playbook. But who can pass up a specimen like Thomas? Not even the Patriots anymore. He fits into an already highly productive defense, but could emerge as one of the best linebackers to play in this system. Watch for his impact to be similar to Willie McGinest's in New England when McGinest was in his prime.

The Patriots' offseason focus wasn't relegated to the defensive side of the ball. In addition to getting Moss, they aggressively addressed an unproductive receiver corral, trading for speedy Wes Welker from Miami and signing Philadelphia's Donte Stallworth and Cincinnati's Kelly Washington. Couple those additions with the return of second-year running back Laurence Maroney—now the bellcow back after the release of veteran Corey Dillon—and Brady has serious help in trying to hold off the soaring Jets.

The Jets' biggest statement of the offseason was a trade for Chicago running back Thomas Jones. Jones totaled 2,545 yards on the ground the past two years for the Bears. His addition gives New York a more balanced offense and a clock-eater. With Mangini's defensive scheme, all the Jets were missing last year was a quality back to wear down opponents in the fourth quarter. That is no longer a problem.

The Miami Dolphins are once again dealing with a change in coaches as they try to narrow the gap between themselves and the two best teams in the division.

The short-lived Nick Saban experiment is over because the coach decided he is best suited for the college game and slithered his way back to Saturdays at the University of Alabama. Spurned by Saban, the Dolphins turned to Cam Cameron, who was wildly successful as the Chargers' offensive coordinator. However, as a head coach Cameron was less than wildly successful at Indiana University a few years ago.

With his quarterback position in flux, Cameron's best chance for early NFL success is the Dolphins' defense. Once again, it is the better side of the ball for Miami. Defensive end Jason Taylor and middle linebacker Zach Thomas are ageless, and new addition Joey Porter should make this veteran unit even stronger.

In Buffalo, there appears to be another year or two of rebuilding left before the Bills can be a serious contender. There is hope in the form of quarterback J.P. Losman. He broke out in 2006 and may have a future. But the Bills need big help on defense, where top players Nate Clements and London Fletcher-Baker found new free-agent homes in the offseason.

TOMASSO DEROSA

**3** Does Joey Porter still have it? The Dolphins made a free-agency splash by signing the former Pittsburgh star linebacker after he was surprisingly cut by the Steelers. Porter could complete a very strong defense for the Dolphins. But Porter, injured much of last season, needs to prove he is still a productive player.

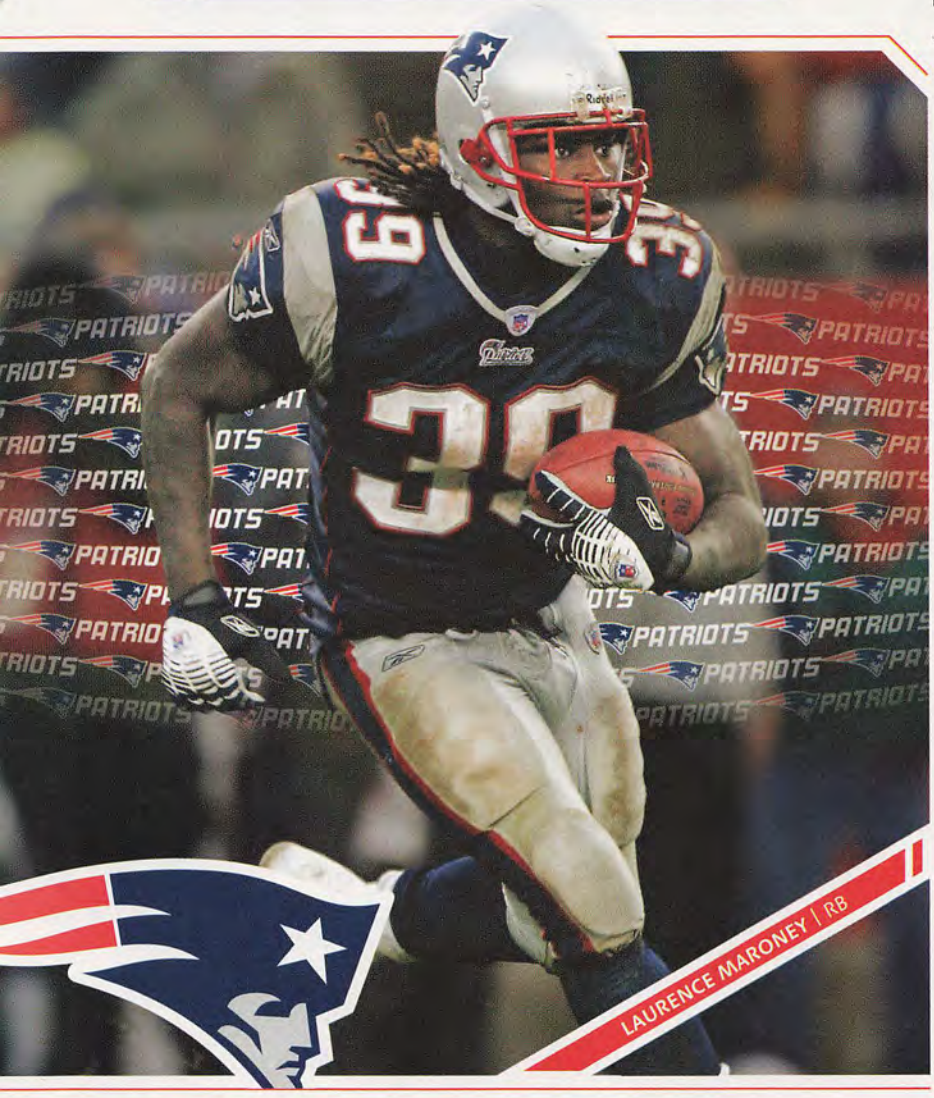
**4** Is J.P. Losman the answer for Buffalo at quarterback? Losman made good strides at the end of 2006, but he has to continue to show the promise he did last season or the Bills may give rookie third-rounder Trent Edwards of Stanford a shot.

**5** Is Cam Cameron taking on too big of a role? The first-year NFL head coach is acting as his own offensive coordinator as the new man in Miami. Cameron is known to delegate responsibilities. He better continue or he'll be in danger of getting overwhelmed.

# NEW ENGLAND 1

**AFC EAST**

2006 Record: 12-4
www.patriots.com
GILLETTE STADIUM
Capacity: 68,756 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 800-543-1776




## Patriot payday

With its string of Super Bowl-less seasons at two, New England's front office decided enough was enough and loosened the offseason purse strings.

The last time we saw the Patriots, they did something very unfamiliar. They blew a postseason game.

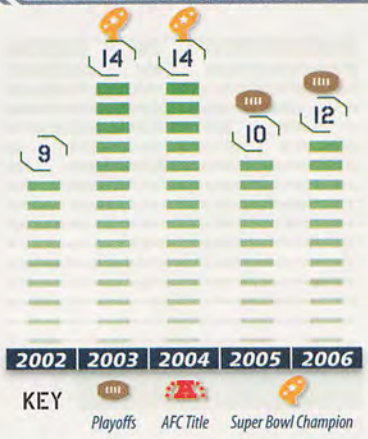
So, as a result, they did something else very un-Patriotic, going out spending big this offseason.

We all know the "Bill Belichick Way." He cooks with ingredients from his own kitchen. Prickly upon losing in the playoffs for the second straight year—after going 10-0 in the postseason up to that point in New England—Belichick changed the course.

Those home ingredients have been traded for gourmet cooking. The entrees of the new Belichick cookbook are free-agent linebacker Adalius Thomas and receiver Randy Moss, who was acquired in a draft-day trade with Oakland. It seems the Patriots have spent wisely. Thomas puts extra swagger into an already-strong linebacker core that is the heart of the team, while Moss gives the Pats a chance to have a 1,000-yard receiver for the first time since 2001. Moss, of course, has some swagger himself.

The intriguing thing about New England's busy offseason—three new receivers were added—was that the team didn't need much help. It was already very strong. But the point was

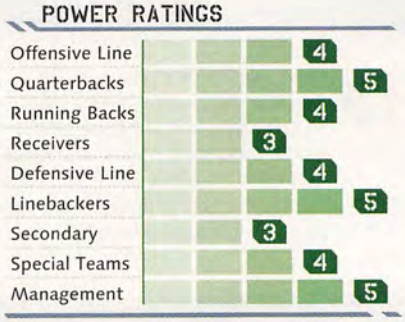
### 5-YEAR WINS TREND




### PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Tom Brady |
| FB | Heath Evans |
| RB | Laurence Maroney |
| LT | Matt Light |
| LG | Logan Mankins |
| C | Dan Koppen |
| RG | Stephen Neal |
| RT | Nick Kaczur |
| TE | Benjamin Watson |
| WR | Randy Moss |
| WR | Donté Stallworth |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Ty Warren |
| DT | Vince Wilfork |
| RE | Richard Seymour |
| OLB | Rosevelt Colvin |
| ILB | Tedy Bruschi |
| ILB | Mike Vrabel |
| OLB | Adalius Thomas |
| LCB | Asante Samuel |
| RCB | Ellis Hobbs |
| SS | Artrell Hawkins |
| FS | Brandon Meriweather |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Josh Miller |
| K | Stephen Gostkowski |
| PR | Ellis Hobbs |
| KR | Ellis Hobbs |

### POWER RATINGS




ROB TRINGALI / SPORTSCHROME

## THE BOOK ON ... *Adalius Thomas* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Thomas can play. He was a big part of what the Ravens did defensively and he was a reason why that defense was special. But people were surprised that the Patriots were the team to land him. It's just not the Patriots' way. But [Bill] Belichick knows good players, especially on defense, and Thomas will fit in well. Expect him to have the impact that Willie McGinest had in that 3-4 defense. Belichick will find ways for Thomas to find the quarterback. Say what you want about Thomas' weak spots as a run defender—and yes, he is not a great a run defender—but he is a pass rusher. That's what he does. That's why he was paid."

made. Belichick and Vice President of Player Personnel Scott Pioli are in the business of winning Super Bowls. They haven't done so the past two seasons and that's considered a failure in the Patriots' front office.

Although there are few teams that go into every NFL season thinking they are going to end up with a tickertape parade, but New England is one of them. As a result, Belichick and Pioli believed it was time to open up the pocketbook.

And it all goes back to what happened to end last season. After the Patriots won another AFC East title, they somehow departed San Diego with an unlikely 24-21 win in the divisional playoff round. The Patriots were soundly beaten for about 55 minutes. Then Tom Brady took over and the Patriots escaped with the win and left California apparently primed for a fourth Super Bowl in six seasons.

But just as unlikely as their win at San Diego was a week before, so was a loss to Indianapolis in the AFC Championship Game the following week.

The Patriots had a 21-6 lead over the home-standing Colts at halftime and it appeared that New England's mastery over Peyton Manning in the playoffs would continue and, thus, a monopoly on the Super Bowl. So it appeared until a furious Colts rally dealt New England a 38-34 setback and ticket home.

In an incredibly loud RCA Dome, it was actually Brady who made the final mistake, throwing an interception and ending a fast-moving New England drive in the final seconds. The Patriots were conquered. They don't allow that very much. That's why they spent the offseason cash.

Had the Patriots not brought in Thomas, cornerback Tory James and receivers Donté Stallworth, Wes Welker, Kelly Washington and Moss, they'd likely still be considered a favorite in the AFC. Now, though, after the spending spree, the Pats are arguably the best team in the NFL.

It's no longer just Brady's guts and savvy and Belichick's brains. This is a complete team and that's scary. Yes, the Jets may have closed the gap in the division, but this is a group that could be the class of the league again.

Belichick says the Patriots' approach this offseason is not any different than in the past.

"I don't think this is any change in philosophy; it's the same thing we've always done: trying to improve the football team," Belichick told the *Boston Globe*. "Whether we give a player on

## DRAFT REPORT

With two picks in the first round, the Patriots addressed their need in the secondary with the addition of **Brandon Meriweather**, an undersized defensive back who is best suited for free safety. New England then traded the 28th overall selection to San Francisco in exchange for the 49ers' 2008 first-round draft spot. The Patriots' next selection wasn't until Round Four, when DT **Kareem Brown**, who excels as a run stopper and fits well in the 3-4, was chosen. Offensive tackles **Clint Oldenburg** and **Corey Hilliard** and guard **Mike Elgin** will compete for backup jobs along the offensive line. At linebacker, **Justin Rogers** could help with the pass rush, while **Oscar Lua** is a sleeper pick with a good chance to earn a roster spot. **Mike Richardson** is a zone cornerback who played well as a senior and RB **Justise Hairston** could spend his rookie season on the practice squad. Acquiring wide receiver Randy Moss from Oakland for a fourth-round draft choice also figures significantly into the final grade.

GRADE **B-**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 24 | Meriweather, Brandon | S | 5-11 | 192 | Miami (FL) |
| 4 | 28 | Brown, Kareem | DT | 6-4 | 307 | Miami (FL) |
| 5 | 34 | Oldenburg, Clint | T | 6-5 | 297 | Colorado State |
| 6 | 6 | Rogers, Justin | LB | 6-4 | 265 | Southern Methodist |
| 6 | 28 | Richardson, Mike | CB | 5-11 | 188 | Notre Dame |
| 6 | 34 | Hairston, Justise | RB | 6-1 | 210 | Central Connecticut St. |
| 6 | 35 | Hilliard, Corey | T | 6-5 | 310 | Oklahoma State |
| 7 | 1 | Lua, Oscar | LB | 6-1 | 245 | USC |
| 7 | 37 | Elgin, Mike | G | 6-4 | 288 | Iowa |

## THE COUNT

| 6 | 28.0 | 19.1 |
|---|---|---|
| Consecutive winning seasons for New England, the NFL's longest current streak of years with at least nine wins. | Sacks by free-agent signee Adalius Thomas since 2004, the most in the NFL. | Donté Stallworth's league-leading yards-per-catch average last year with the Philadelphia Eagles. |

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** @ *New York Jets*
SEPT. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 2** vs. *San Diego*
SEPT. 16 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 3** vs. *Buffalo*
SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 4** @ *Cincinnati*
OCT. 1 | 8:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 5** vs. *Cleveland*
OCT. 7 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 6** @ *Dallas*
OCT. 14 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 7** @ *Miami*
OCT. 21 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 8** vs. *Washington*
OCT. 28 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 9** @ *Indianapolis*
NOV. 4 | 4:15
**MUST-SEE GAME**
*This is the NFL's premier rivalry, and the edge is now on the Colts' side. The Colts are champions and this is the house where the Patriots blew a huge lead in the AFC Championship Game. This is going to be a lot of fun.*
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 10** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 11** @ *Buffalo*
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 12** vs. *Philadelphia*
NOV. 25 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 13** @ *Baltimore*
DEC. 3 | 8:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 14** vs. *Pittsburgh*
DEC. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 15** vs. *New York Jets*
DEC. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 16** vs. *Miami*
DEC. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 17** @ *New York Giants*
DEC. 29 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 19-17 | Buffalo |
| 09/17 | W | 24-17 | at New York Jets |
| 09/24 | L | 7-17 | Denver |
| 10/01 | W | 38-13 | at Cincinnati |
| 10/08 | W | 20-10 | Miami |
| 10/22 | W | 28-6 | at Buffalo |
| 10/30 | W | 31-7 | at Minnesota |
| 11/05 | L | 20-27 | Indianapolis |
| 11/12 | L | 14-17 | New York Jets |
| 11/19 | W | 35-0 | at Green Bay |
| 11/26 | W | 17-13 | Chicago |
| 12/03 | W | 28-21 | Detroit |
| 12/10 | L | 0-21 | at Miami |
| 12/17 | W | 40-7 | Houston |
| 12/24 | W | 24-21 | at Jacksonville |
| 12/31 | W | 40-23 | at Tennessee |

**WON 12, LOST 4**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dillon | 199 | 812 | 4.1 | 50 | 13 |
| Maroney | 175 | 745 | 4.3 | 41 | 6 |
| Faulk | 25 | 123 | 4.9 | 11t | 1 |
| Evans | 27 | 117 | 4.3 | 35 | 0 |
| Brady | 49 | 102 | 2.1 | 22 | 0 |
| Jackson | 4 | 22 | 5.5 | 14 | 0 |
| Pass | 6 | 21 | 3.5 | 6 | 0 |
| Brown | 2 | 18 | 9.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Kight | 1 | 8 | 8.0 | 8 | 0 |
| Caldwell | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| Cassel | 2 | 4 | 2.0 | 5 | 0 |
| Testaverde | 8 | -8 | -1.0 | -1 | 0 |
| **Patriots** | 499 | 1969 | 3.9 | 50 | 20 |
| **Opponents** | 388 | 1507 | 3.9 | 74t | 11 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Caldwell | 61 | 760 | 12.5 | 62t | 4 |
| Watson | 49 | 643 | 13.1 | 40 | 3 |
| Brown | 43 | 384 | 8.9 | 23 | 4 |
| Faulk | 43 | 356 | 8.3 | 43t | 2 |
| Gabriel | 25 | 344 | 13.8 | 45 | 3 |
| Maroney | 22 | 194 | 8.8 | 31 | 1 |
| Graham | 21 | 235 | 11.2 | 29 | 2 |
| Dillon | 15 | 147 | 9.8 | 52 | 0 |
| Jackson | 13 | 152 | 11.7 | 35t | 3 |
| D. Thomas | 11 | 159 | 14.5 | 36 | 1 |
| Gaffney | 11 | 142 | 12.9 | 33 | 1 |
| Evans | 7 | 34 | 4.9 | 11 | 1 |
| Pass | 2 | 24 | 12.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Childress | 2 | 7 | 3.5 | 5 | 0 |
| Kight | 1 | 9 | 9.0 | 9 | 0 |
| **Patriots** | 326 | 3590 | 11.0 | 62t | 25 |
| **Opponents** | 294 | 3484 | 11.9 | 83t | 10 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brady | 516 | 319 | 3529 | 24 | 12 |
| Cassel | 8 | 5 | 32 | 0 | 0 |
| Testaverde | 3 | 2 | 29 | 1 | 0 |
| **Patriots** | 527 | 326 | 3590 | 25 | 12 |
| **Opponents** | 518 | 294 | 3484 | 10 | 22 |

**SACKS**

Colvin 8.5, Green 7.5, Warren 7.5, Banta-Cain 5.5, Vrabel 4.5, Seymour 4, Bruschi 1.5, Harrison 1, Sanders 1, Seau 1, Wilfork 1, Wright 1

**PATRIOTS 44, OPPONENTS 29**

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Patriots)*

"I love this team. This will be the team to beat in the NFL. It will not be a surprise if the Patriots win the Super Bowl again. Let's face it, Bill Belichick is better than everyone. His team blew it in Indianapolis in the title game with a lesser roster than the Colts. This team has reloaded. ... Adalius Thomas will be a superstar in that system. The defense will win games. ... The new receivers will help some and that's all [Tom] Brady needs. ... It will be interesting to see if Laurence Maroney's shoulder injury will be serious. If it is, it's one of the few things that could stop New England this year."

the team a large contract, or it goes to another player, it's investing in talent. That's all we're doing."

Of course, the bottom line is that New England will be strong because Brady is still there. That is what has and will make the Patriots go.

Making him even more potent is that the Patriots are now going out of their way to give him some help. For much of his six-season reign in New England, Brady has simply been handed a group of marginal receivers and told to work his magic. Last season was perhaps Brady's most difficult trick, as he had to live without Deion Branch, who was traded to Seattle after a contract dispute.

Reche Caldwell came out of nowhere to make 61 catches and was big in the playoffs. But the Patriots needed more. Stallworth, Welker and Washington will not make this the best receiving corps in the NFL, but their impact will be significant.

It all starts with Moss, who at 30 promises to give New England the star receiver it has missed in exchange for the Super Bowl ring he has missed the past nine years. Moss's production has slipped the past two years, but he should pick up renewed energy as a Patriot, which should help everyone in New England.

Stallworth was a big-play threat in Philadelphia last season after a late trade from New Orleans. The former first-round pick averaged 19.1 yards per catch on 38 catches. But he has to show he can be consistent. We'll see.

Welker was brought in as much for his return ability as his receiving. As a wideout, he is a slot, third-receiver type, but made 67 catches for 673 yards for Miami last season before being traded to New England this offseason. He is one of the better return men in the AFC. Washington was added for depth purposes.

And all three of these new faces will help Brady. Of course, he still has the underrated Benjamin Watson to throw to. The tight end had 49 catches in 2006, second most on the team. Brady, however, will miss Daniel Graham, an outstanding blocking tight end who signed with his hometown Broncos. Veteran Kyle Brady was brought in take up the slack.

Speaking of runners, there is a new sheriff for the Patriots. The Corey Dillon Era is over and the Patriots are fully relying on second-year running back Laurence Maroney, who was the No. 21 overall pick last season. Maroney gained 745 yards on 175 carries in 2006 and many scouts believe, barring his health, that he has a chance to be a complete back. The 5-11, 220-pounder is a hard, one-cut runner who can punish opponents. The Patriots are hopeful that Maroney will make a full recovery from offseason shoulder surgery.

Maroney will be running behind a stable, solid line that has no real

### DID YOU KNOW

Bill Belichick's 13-3 playoff record ranks second in NFL history, trailing only Vince Lombardi's 9-1 mark. Belichick leads the league with an 82-28 record (including playoffs) since the start of the 2001 season.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**LAURENCE MARONEY**
running back

With Corey Dillon gone, Maroney will get the chance to be the bellcow back, assuming he is healthy. He had offseason shoulder injury that could potentially be a problem. But the Patriots are counting on him. Maroney is a hard runner who can punish defenders.

### PATRIOTS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Stanley Morgan** (1977-89)
*Morgan's 10,352 receiving yards, 67 receiving touchdowns and 19.4 per-catch average all sit atop the New England record books.*

**2 Troy Brown** (1993-present)
*Brown has been a member of all three Patriots Super Bowl champions, and his best year in 2001 (101 receptions, 1,199 yards, 5 TDs) helped bring the Pats their first NFL title.*

**3 Irving Fryar** (1984-92)
*Fryar made five Pro Bowls, and his 851 receptions and 12,785 yards are 10th all-time.*

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

superstars. Center Dan Koppen is stout and guard Stephen Neal and Logan Mankins are typical, hard-working, feisty Belichick players. Left tackle Matt Light struggled some last year after coming back from a knee injury that cost him 13 games, but he still can be relied upon. Nick Kaczur, like Mankins, is young and has a bright future.

Defensively, the Patriots should be outstanding as usual, especially with the addition of Thomas. He will lurk as a linebacker in the 3-4 alignment behind the Patriots' D-line trio of Richard Seymour, Ty Warren and Vince Wilfork.

As strong as Seymour is, the team would like to see him put up more numbers. He had 40 tackles, four sacks and seven passes deflected last season, but is now four years removed from his best campaign and will turn 28 during the season.

Warren had 7.5 sacks in 2006, the most of his four-year career. Wilfork, the 325-pound nose tackle, had 50 tackles last season. He is an effective player, but Belichick would like to see more consistency from him in plugging the middle.

Of course, the acquisition of Thomas should help everyone. The Patriots hope Thomas has the same impact on the defense as Willie McGinest did during his prime. Thomas had a career-high 11 sacks last year for the Ravens and has 28 in the past three seasons. Joining stalwarts Tedy Bruschi and Mike Vrabel, Thomas should make the Patriots' linebacking crew outstanding.

Continuing with the Patriots' theme of strong, workmanlike position players is the secondary. Cornerback Asante Samuel had a fabulous 2006 season as he tied for the NFL lead with 10 interceptions. He brought one back for a TD against Manning in the AFC title game. However, Samuel was unhappy in the offseason after being tagged as New England's franchise player. But the Patriots expect him to be with them at least for one more season. The young, improving Ellis Hobbs is the right cornerback, with the veteran James being signed to play nickel.

The safeties are not a team strength, with journeyman Artrell Hawkins and third-year pro James Sanders the likely starters. First-round pick Brandon Meriweather will likely vie for a starting job early.

Kicker Stephen Gostkowski had a solid rookie season in replacing the legendary Adam Vinatieri. Veteran Josh Miller will likely be the punter.

**FINAL GRADE**

**96**

STOCK REPORT: UP

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Donté Stallworth**, WR (PHI)

*Stallworth had a nice season in Philadelphia and showed that he can be a difference-maker after a slow start to his career with the Saints. He will have a chance to be an impact player for the receiver-hungry Patriots.*

- Adalius Thomas, LB (BAL)
- Kyle Brady, TE (JAC)
- Sammy Morris, RB (MIA)
- Wes Welker, WR (trade, MIA)
- Kelley Washington, WR (CIN)
- Eddie Jackson, DB (MIA)
- Randy Moss, WR (trade, OAK)
- Tory James, CB (CIN)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Daniel Graham, TE (DEN)
- Tully Banta-Cain, LB (SF)
- Todd Sauerbrun, P (DEN)

> "I'm still overwhelmed and, at the same time, kind of star-struck that I am part of this New England Patriots organization."
>
> *—offseason acquisition Randy Moss on being a Patriot*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 335.6 | 11 |
| Rushing | 123.1 | 12 |
| Passing | 212.5 | 12 |
| Scoring | 385 | 7 |
| Punt Returns | 11.7 | 3 |
| Kick Returns | 26.8 | 1 |
| Red Zone TD % | 60.0 | 5 |
| Total Defense | 294.4 | 6 |
| Against Rush | 94.2 | 5 |
| Against Pass | 200.2 | 12 |
| Points Allowed | 237 | 2 |
| Interceptions | 22 | 4 |
| Sacks | 44 | 5 |
| Turnover Diff. | +8 | 4t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 330 | 121 | 181 | 28 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 60 | 305 | 36 | 17 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | 25 | 1 | 0 |

## PATRIOTS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | Brady, Tom | QB | 6-4 | 225 | 08/03/1977 | 7 | Michigan |
| 16 | Cassel, Matt | QB | 6-4 | 225 | 05/17/1982 | 2 | USC |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 62 | Barthelmes, Brian | C | 6-6 | 300 | 01/28/1983 | 0 | Virginia |
| 65 | Britt, Wesley | T | 6-8 | 320 | 11/21/1981 | 1 | Alabama |
| 71 | Hochstein, Russ | G | 6-4 | 305 | 10/07/1977 | 5 | Nebraska |
| 77 | Kaczur, Nick | T | 6-4 | 315 | 07/28/1979 | 2 | Toledo |
| 67 | Koppen, Dan | C | 6-2 | 296 | 09/12/1979 | 4 | Boston College |
| 72 | Light, Matt | T | 6-4 | 305 | 06/23/1978 | 6 | Purdue |
| 70 | Mankins, Logan | G | 6-4 | 310 | 03/10/1982 | 2 | Fresno State |
| 64 | Mruczkowski, Gene | G | 6-2 | 305 | 06/06/1980 | 3 | Purdue |
| 61 | Neal, Stephen | G | 6-4 | 305 | 10/09/1976 | 4 | Cal St. Bakersfield |
| 68 | O'Callaghan, Ryan | T | 6-7 | 330 | 07/19/1983 | 1 | California |
| 66 | Paxton, Lonie | C | 6-2 | 260 | 03/13/1978 | 7 | Sacramento State |
| 74 | Yates, Billy | G | 6-2 | 305 | 04/15/1980 | 3 | Texas A&M |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 44 | Evans, Heath | RB | 6-0 | 250 | 12/30/1978 | 6 | Auburn |
| 33 | Faulk, Kevin | RB | 5-8 | 202 | 06/05/1976 | 8 | LSU |
| 41 | Hill, Quadtrine | RB | 6-2 | 221 | 11/18/1982 | 0 | Miami (FL) |
| 39 | Maroney, Laurence | RB | 5-11 | 220 | 02/05/1985 | 1 | Minnesota |
| 45 | Mills, Garrett | RB | 6-1 | 235 | 10/12/1983 | 0 | Tulsa |
| 34 | Morris, Sammy | RB | 6-0 | 218 | 03/23/1977 | 7 | Texas Tech |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 88 | Brady, Kyle | TE | 6-6 | 280 | 01/14/1972 | 12 | Penn State |
| 87 | Caldwell, Reche | WR | 6-0 | 210 | 03/28/1979 | 5 | Florida |
| 13 | Childress, Bam | WR | 5-10 | 185 | 03/31/1982 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 10 | Gaffney, Jabar | WR | 6-1 | 205 | 12/01/1980 | 5 | Florida |
| 17 | Jackson, Chad | WR | 6-1 | 215 | 03/06/1985 | 1 | Florida |
| 19 | Kight, Kelvin | WR | 6-0 | 209 | 07/02/1982 | 2 | Florida |
| 85 | Kranchick, Matt | TE | 6-7 | 260 | 12/13/1979 | 2 | Penn State |
| | Moss, Randy | WR | 6-4 | 210 | 02/13/1977 | 9 | Marshall |
| 88 | Santiago, O.J. | TE | 6-7 | 265 | 04/04/1974 | 6 | Kent State |
| 18 | Stallworth, Donté | WR | 6-0 | 196 | 11/10/1980 | 5 | Tennessee |
| 86 | Thomas, David | TE | 6-3 | 248 | 07/05/1983 | 1 | Texas |
| 15 | Washington, Kelley | WR | 6-3 | 216 | 08/21/1979 | 4 | Tennessee |
| 84 | Watson, Benjamin | TE | 6-3 | 255 | 12/18/1980 | 3 | Georgia |
| 83 | Welker, Wes | WR | 5-9 | 185 | 05/01/1981 | 3 | Texas Tech |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 97 | Green, Jarvis | DE | 6-3 | 285 | 01/12/1979 | 5 | LSU |
| 91 | Hill, Marquise | DE | 6-6 | 300 | 08/07/1982 | 3 | LSU |
| 93 | Seymour, Richard | DT | 6-6 | 310 | 10/06/1979 | 6 | Georgia |
| 90 | Smith, Le Kevin | DT | 6-1 | 308 | 07/21/1982 | 1 | Nebraska |
| 92 | Thomas, Santonio | DT | 6-4 | 305 | 07/02/1981 | 0 | Miami (FL) |
| 94 | Warren, Ty | DT | 6-5 | 300 | 02/06/1981 | 4 | Texas A&M |
| 75 | Wilfork, Vince | DT | 6-2 | 325 | 11/04/1981 | 3 | Miami (FL) |
| 99 | Wright, Mike | DT | 6-4 | 295 | 03/01/1982 | 2 | Cincinnati |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | Andrews, Willie | CB | 5-10 | 195 | 11/02/1983 | 1 | Baylor |
| 32 | Baker, Rashad | S | 5-10 | 198 | 02/22/1982 | 3 | Tennessee |
| 21 | Gay, Randall | CB | 5-11 | 190 | 05/05/1982 | 3 | LSU |
| 37 | Harrison, Rodney | S | 6-1 | 220 | 12/15/1972 | 13 | Western Illinois |
| 25 | Hawkins, Artrell | CB | 5-10 | 195 | 11/24/1976 | 9 | Cincinnati |
| 27 | Hobbs, Ellis | CB | 5-9 | 190 | 05/16/1983 | 2 | Iowa State |
| 29 | Jackson, Eddie | CB | 6-0 | 200 | 12/19/1980 | 3 | Arkansas |
| 28 | James, Tory | CB | 6-2 | 192 | 05/18/1973 | 10 | LSU |
| 24 | Mitchell, Mel | S | 6-1 | 225 | 02/10/1979 | 3 | Western Kentucky |
| 22 | Samuel, Asante | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 01/06/1981 | 4 | UCF |
| 36 | Sanders, James | S | 5-10 | 210 | 11/11/1983 | 2 | Fresno State |
| 30 | Scott, Chad | CB | 6-1 | 205 | 09/06/1974 | 9 | Maryland |
| 31 | Spann, Antwain | CB | 6-0 | 190 | 02/22/1983 | 1 | La.-Lafayette |
| 26 | Wilson, Eugene | S | 5-10 | 195 | 08/17/1980 | 4 | Illinois |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 52 | Alexander, Eric | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 02/08/1982 | 3 | LSU |
| 54 | Bruschi, Tedy | LB | 6-1 | 247 | 06/09/1973 | 11 | Arizona |
| 59 | Colvin, Rosevelt | LB | 6-3 | 250 | 09/05/1977 | 8 | Purdue |
| 53 | Izzo, Larry | LB | 5-10 | 228 | 09/26/1974 | 10 | Rice |
| 46 | Mays, Corey | LB | 6-1 | 245 | 11/27/1983 | 1 | Notre Dame |
| 96 | Thomas, Adalius | LB | 6-2 | 270 | 08/18/1977 | 7 | Southern Miss |
| 50 | Vrabel, Mike | LB | 6-4 | 261 | 08/14/1975 | 10 | Ohio State |
| 58 | Woods, Pierre | LB | 6-5 | 250 | 01/06/1982 | 1 | Michigan |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Baugher, Danny | P | 5-10 | 195 | 01/24/1984 | 0 | Arizona |
| 3 | Gostkowski, Stephen | K | 6-1 | 210 | 01/28/1984 | 1 | Memphis |
| 1 | Malone, Tom | P | 6-0 | 205 | 03/29/1984 | 0 | USC |
| 8 | Miller, Josh | P | 6-4 | 225 | 07/14/1970 | 11 | Arizona |

**BILL BELICHICK**, HEAD COACH

**Joel Collier**, secondary; **Ivan Fears**, running backs; **Pepper Johnson**, def. line; **Pete Mangurian**, tight ends; **Josh McDaniels**, off. coord./quarterbacks; **Matt Patricia**, linebackers; **Dean Pees**, def. coord.; **Dante Scarnecchia**, asst. head coach/off. line; **Brad Seely**, special teams; **Nick Caserio**, wide receivers

# NEW YORK

# 2

**AFC EAST**

**2006 Record: 10-6**
www.newyorkjets.com
**THE MEADOWLANDS**
Capacity: 80,242 Turf: Artificial
Tickets: 516-560-8200

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Chad Pennington |
| FB | Darien Barnes |
| RB | Thomas Jones |
| LT | D'Brickashaw Ferguson |
| LG | Pete Kendall |
| C | Nick Mangold |
| RG | Brandon Moore |
| RT | Anthony Clement |
| TE | Chris Baker |
| WR | Laveranues Coles |
| WR | Jerricho Cotchery |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Shaun Ellis |
| DT | Dewayne Robertson |
| RE | Kimo von Oelhoffen |
| OLB | Victor Hobson |
| ILB | Jonathan Vilma |
| ILB | Eric Barton |
| OLB | Bryan Thomas |
| LCB | Andre Dyson |
| RCB | Darrelle Revis |
| SS | Kerry Rhodes |
| FS | Erik Coleman |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Ben Graham |
| K | Mike Nugent |
| PR | Leon Washington |
| KR | Justin Miller |

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 4 |
| Quarterbacks | 3 |
| Running Backs | 4 |
| Receivers | 4 |
| Defensive Line | 3 |
| Linebackers | 4 |
| Secondary | 3 |
| Special Teams | 3 |
| Management | 4 |

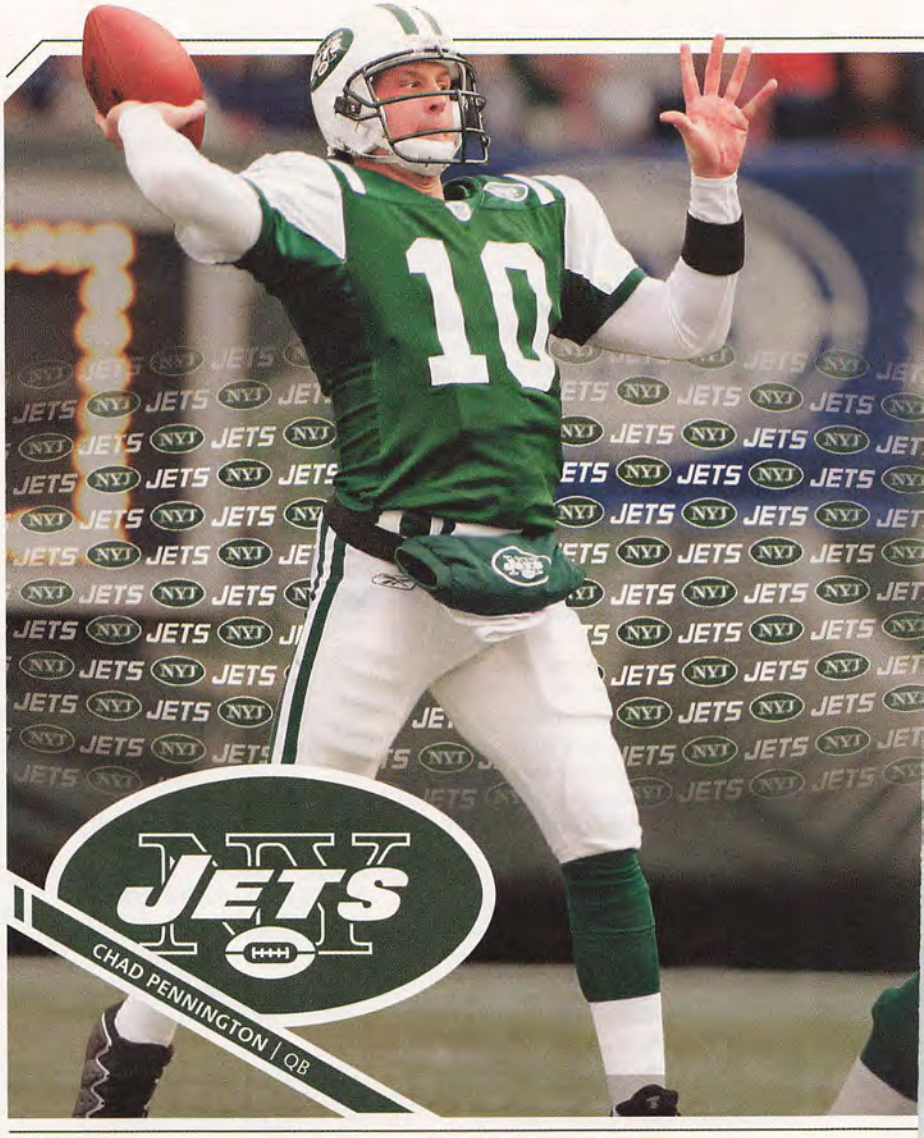
## Jets set?

One year after arriving in the Big Apple with many doubters, New York's 'Mangenius' young coach has earned the respect of his players and the NFL with hard-core results.

Eric Mangini arrived in New York burdened with tags of being too young for the job and nothing more than a lieutenant under the hated Bill Belichick. Loyal fans of the green and white were less than impressed. The Jets had wobbled out of a disastrous 2005 season beaten and humiliated. Feisty and likable coach Herman Edwards had escaped to Kansas City.

Coaches leaving New York for Kansas City? What in the name of Namath was going on?

The Jets were a consistent playoff contender under Edwards, but everything fell apart after a 2005 season riddled with injuries and embarrassments. Curtis Martin finally broke down; Chad Pennington's right shoulder was as unreliable as ever; and a team with serious playoff




RICH KANE

aspirations had finished dead last in the AFC East.

To make matters even tenser in the Big Apple, the Jets' ownership decided the remedy was Mangini, a 35-year-old kid who seemingly worked his way up from buttering Belichick's rolls to becoming his top defensive assistant in New England. He had held that post for only a year. Word that Mangini started out as a 23-year-old ball boy with Cleveland didn't make Jets Nation any more comfortable.

But all that angst was a year ago.

Fast-forward all the way to the current Super Bowl hype. Yes, NFL fans are fickle. So are NFL results. Quick turnarounds are the norm these days.

But one of the most impressive overhauls in the league is under way with the Jets. Forget about the age of the "Mangenius"—he's already 36. And after earning an endearing nickname in the city's infamous tabloids, he's officially made it in New York.

As the youngest coach in the league, Mangini had the look of a confident leader from the start of his first season at the reins. And it was no easy task. The Jets had serious questions at quarterback and no running game, and they were adjusting to life without standout defensive end John Abraham, who forced a trade to Atlanta. The awful memories of an unexpected 4-12 season still lingered in the locker room.

But Mangini forged on with his plan, and things worked out. Pennington was not only healthy but once again his deceptively effective self, earning *AP* Comeback Player of the Year behind an offensive line led by a pair of rookies. The platoon at running back was serviceable with the explosive play of first-year rusher Leon Washington. It should be much better after an offseason trade for Thomas Jones. The receivers emerged, and the defense had a feisty, unified feel that must have reminded Mangini of his New England days.

A 10-6 record and playoff berth later, questions about Mangini and the Jets have disappeared. Opponents were quietly staggered by the organization and preparation the team displayed each week. The revered Curtis Martin said it was the best coaching job he'd ever seen. Some said Mangini had the feel of a coach in his 10th NFL season, not his first.

Now it's his second and, of course, much has changed. Few remember the Jets' dismal outlook and low expectations in the aftermath of 2005. Instead, how good and tough Mangini and the Jets were in 2006 sits fresh in the NFL's short-term memory. Perceptions and expectations have been drastically altered. And Mangini knows it.

Keeping his young team from resting on last year's dramatic success will be among his greatest challenges.

"I think each year is a new year," Mangini says. "Just like last year was, this year is completely new, and we need to do all the same things we did last year. That's our focus: on us, and making as much progress as we can."

Ultimately, the Jets will be expected to further close the gap with the Patriots. A highlight of their 2006 season came in a 17-14 win in New England, but the Patriots handled the Jets 37-16 in the wild card playoff game. Even so, Belichick and his team are on notice: Gang Green is back.

Some around the league believe Belichick spent so unusually much in free agency this winter—and took so many character risks along the way—because of admitted worries about his new rival. The two teams have often clashed of late, and their coaches seem to be on rocky terms after Mangini's departure from his mentor's staff.

The wait won't be long for the latest confrontation in this brewing rivalry: the two teams will square off on opening day.

The Jets found themselves a much-needed centerpiece as they try to move in on the

## DRAFT REPORT

The Jets' primary need entering the draft was at cornerback and they addressed it by trading up in the first round, selecting **Darrelle Revis**. The former Pittsburgh star was the first corner selected (14th overall) and will contribute on special teams as an outstanding return man. New York traded up again in Round Two and chose Michigan LB **David Harris**, who fits well in the team's 3-4 scheme. In the weeks leading up to the draft, OT **Jacob Bender** from I-AA Nicholls State moved up many teams' draft boards, but must overcome the transition of the level of competition. **Chansi Stuckey** offers speed and quickness along with the ability to return kicks.

**GRADE C+**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 14 | Revis, Darrelle | CB | 6-0 | 197 | Pittsburgh |
| 2 | 15 | Harris, David | LB | 6-2 | 239 | Michigan |
| 6 | 3 | Bender, Jacob | T | 6-6 | 305 | Nicholls State |
| 7 | 25 | Stuckey, Chansi | WR | 6-0 | 185 | Clemson |

## THE BOOK ON ... *Thomas Jones* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"This will be one of the most interesting players to watch in the AFC East. He's new, and the division opponents will have to account for him. The biggest thing to watch is what impact he has on the Jets' chances of being a contender in the AFC. In New York, they think Jones is the answer and the Jets are now Super Bowl contenders. That might be right. A powerful, hard, downhill runner is what the Jets needed, and they stole him from the Bears. I never knew why the Bears weren't completely sold on this guy. He can be a difference-maker."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. *New England* — SEPT. 9 | 1:00
**MUST-SEE GAME**
*The Jets open the season against their division nemesis. The Patriots know Eric Mangini's team is for real, and the Jets can make an early-season statement.*
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 2** @ *Baltimore* — SEPT. 16 | 4:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 3** vs. *Miami* — SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 4** @ *Buffalo* — SEPT. 30 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 5** @ *New York Giants* — OCT. 7 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 6** vs. *Philadelphia* — OCT. 14 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 7** @ *Cincinnati* — OCT. 21 | 4:05
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 8** vs. *Buffalo* — OCT. 28 | 4:05
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 9** vs. *Washington* — NOV. 4 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 10** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 11** vs. *Pittsburgh* — NOV. 18 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 12** @ *Dallas* — NOV. 22 | 4:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 13** @ *Miami* — DEC. 2 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 14** vs. *Cleveland* — DEC. 9 | 4:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 15** @ *New England* — DEC. 16 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 16** @ *Tennessee* — DEC. 23 | 4:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 17** vs. *Kansas City* — DEC. 30 | 8:15
W / L SCORE

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 23-16 | at Tennessee |
| 09/17 | L | 17-24 | New England |
| 09/24 | W | 28-20 | at Buffalo |
| 10/01 | L | 28-31 | Indianapolis |
| 10/08 | L | 0-41 | at Jacksonville |
| 10/15 | W | 20-17 | Miami |
| 10/22 | W | 31-24 | Detroit |
| 10/29 | L | 13-20 | at Cleveland |
| 11/12 | W | 17-14 | at New England |
| 11/19 | L | 0-10 | Chicago |
| 11/26 | W | 26-11 | Houston |
| 12/03 | W | 38-10 | at Green Bay |
| 12/10 | L | 13-31 | Buffalo |
| 12/17 | W | 26-13 | at Minnesota |
| 12/25 | W | 13-10 | at Miami |
| 12/31 | W | 23-3 | Oakland |

**WON 10, LOST 6**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.Washington | 151 | 650 | 4.3 | 23 | 4 |
| Houston | 113 | 374 | 3.3 | 31 | 5 |
| Barlow | 131 | 370 | 2.8 | 12 | 6 |
| Pennington | 35 | 109 | 3.1 | 15 | 0 |
| B. Smith | 18 | 103 | 5.7 | 32 | 0 |
| Blaylock | 25 | 44 | 1.8 | 6 | 0 |
| Dwight | 2 | 28 | 14.0 | 28 | 0 |
| Cotchery | 5 | 25 | 5.0 | 10 | 0 |
| Coles | 2 | 14 | 7.0 | 15 | 0 |
| Askew | 6 | 11 | 1.8 | 5 | 0 |
| Clemens | 2 | 10 | 5.0 | 8 | 0 |
| Graham | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Jets** | 491 | 1738 | 3.5 | 32 | 15 |
| **Opponents** | 453 | 2084 | 4.6 | 57t | 14 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Coles | 91 | 1098 | 12.1 | 58t | 6 |
| Cotchery | 82 | 961 | 11.7 | 71t | 6 |
| Baker | 31 | 300 | 9.7 | 28 | 4 |
| L.Washington | 25 | 270 | 10.8 | 64 | 0 |
| McCareins | 23 | 347 | 15.1 | 50 | 1 |
| Dwight | 16 | 112 | 7.0 | 15 | 0 |
| B. Smith | 9 | 61 | 6.8 | 19 | 0 |
| Askew | 9 | 50 | 5.6 | 12 | 0 |
| Houston | 7 | 43 | 6.1 | 11 | 0 |
| Barlow | 7 | 21 | 3.0 | 8 | 0 |
| Ryan | 6 | 44 | 7.3 | 10 | 0 |
| Blaylock | 5 | 29 | 5.8 | 9 | 0 |
| Hodgins | 2 | 9 | 4.5 | 6 | 0 |
| **Jets** | 313 | 3352 | 10.7 | 71t | 17 |
| **Opponents** | 316 | 3452 | 10.9 | 77t | 19 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pennington | 485 | 313 | 3352 | 17 | 16 |
| Clemens | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Graham | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ramsey | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Jets** | 488 | 313 | 3352 | 17 | 16 |
| **Opponents** | 532 | 316 | 3452 | 19 | 16 |

**SACKS**

B. Thomas 8.5, Hobson 6, Ellis 5, Rhodes 5, Barton 4.5, Robertson 2.5, D. Coleman 1, Mosley 1, von Oelhoffen 1, R. Washington 0.5

**JETS 35, OPPONENTS 34**

Patriots' divisional dominance. They traded for standout Chicago Bears running back Jones in the offseason to give them a bellcow to pair with Washington, who gained 650 yards in his first year and will now be used to provide the change of pace for which he's best suited. Jones ran for 1,210 yards and six touchdowns for the NFC champions last season.

"With Thomas, we had done a lot of research this year, last year, and he's a guy that no matter who you talk to offensively or defensively, they talk about what a great locker room presence he is, how tough he is, how contagious his attitude is," Mangini says. "So outside of what you saw on the film and the production he had, I really liked that element of it."

Jones' ability to gain tough yards will take pressure off of Pennington, who showed he is all the way back from two rotator-cuff surgeries. He threw for 3,352 yards and 17 touchdowns while completing 64.5 percent of his passes. Almost two years removed from his latest surgery, Pennington should once again be looked at as a team leader instead of a question mark as the offense looks for its second strong year under precocious coordinator Brian Schottenheimer.

Pennington was assisted by a breakout year from receiver Jerricho Cotchery and the continued success of Laveranues Coles. After catching a total of 25 balls in his first two NFL seasons, Cotchery exploded for 82 catches last year. He was a first-down machine who showed great hands in 2006, and his continued development should be fun to watch.

Helping Cotchery is the presence of Coles, who had 91 catches for 1,098 yards last year. In seven NFL seasons, Coles has proven to be a consistent option and favorite target of his close friend Pennington. The Jets lack a great pass-catching tight end; Chris Baker is better known as a blocker.

The Jets' offensive line should improve with experience after the team dedicated its two first-round picks to D'Brickashaw Ferguson and Nick Mangold last year. Ferguson, at left tackle, showed signs of dominance toward the end of the season, while Mangold stepped in to start every game at center and displayed the toughness and savvy to be an elite

### DID YOU KNOW

Thomas Jones, who was acquired by the Jets in an offseason trade with the Chicago Bears, and younger brother Julius (Dallas Cowboys) were the first brothers in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards or more in the same season. Thomas recorded 1,210 yards while Julius reached 1,084.

Jerricho Cotchery converted an NFL-best 26 of his 29 third-down receptions into first downs last season.

New York is the least-penalized team in the NFL since 2000, committing just 545 infractions. The Jets also had the third-fewest penalties in the league last season (70).

### JETS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Don Maynard** (1960-72)

*The first player to sign with the Jets holds their receiving records for yards (11,834), receptions (633) and touchdowns (88) and helped lead the club to its first and only Super Bowl victory.*

**2 Wesley Walker** (1977-89)

*Amassed 8,306 yards over his 13 years with the Jets, averaging 19 per catch.*

**3 Al Toon** (1985-92)

*The only Jet other than Joe Namath to be named team MVP three times caught 517 passes for 6,605 yards and 31 scores before head injuries cut his career short.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**JERRICHO COTCHERY**
wide receiver

Last year was not a fluke for Cotchery, who is entering his fourth NFL season. He was a big reason the Jets had a huge year. Cotchery came out of nowhere and notched 82 catches for six touchdowns. He had less than a catch per game in his first two years, but is now a legit gamebreaker who should catch 100 balls in 2007.

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Jets)*

"What should we expect from this team? Last year, the entire league thought playing the Jets were a gimme. But this team went out and laid the wood. It's all because of Eric Mangini. This guy is a mini Bill Belichick. He just gets it. He is extremely bright and well organized. Mangini proved he can win with lesser talent. ... Thomas Jones will have a huge impact on this team, and he will be a reason why the Jets make the playoffs again. ... Got to like the Jets' receivers. Not big names, but they are playmakers. ... The defense is nasty and stout. Just like New England—no huge stars, but they are well coached. ... "

HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 305.7 | 25 | Total Defense | 331.6 | 20 |
| Rushing | 108.6 | 20 | Against Rush | 130.3 | 24 |
| Passing | 197.1 | 17 | Against Pass | 201.4 | 14 |
| Scoring | 316 | 18 | Points Allowed | 295 | 6 |
| Punt Returns | 8.4 | 20 | Interceptions | 16 | 17t |
| Kick Returns | 24.1 | 5 | Sacks | 35 | 15t |
| Red Zone TD % | 45.8 | 21 | Turnover Diff. | 0 | 17t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 289 | 99 | 161 | 29 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 48 | 207 | 22 | 18 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | 17 | 2 | 1 |

player at his position. Left guard Pete Kendall is a mainstay.

Defensively, the Jets have that Patriots feel. There are few stars, but the unit plays smart and Mangini always has them in position to make plays in the new 3-4 scheme. On the line, Dewayne Robertson must show he can make it as a 3-4 tackle. He needs to hold his ground against the run and get increased penetration. Co-captain Shaun Ellis had a solid, if quiet, 2006 at defensive end, and Bryan Thomas finally broke out with 8.5 sacks as an edge rusher.

The star of the defense is inside linebacker Jonathan Vilma, who in his fourth NFL season should strive under Mangini despite his natural preference for the 4-3. Strong inside linebackers usually do well in the defense New York is aspiring to, and Vilma is both smart and naturally gifted. He should star, but needs help from Robertson. Last season, in the transition to Mangini's defense, Vilma was often engaged by bigger tackles and was unable to fly around and make plays. The Jets traded up in the second round of the draft to take University of Michigan inside linebacker David Harris, who should step in and relieve some pressure.

New York's secondary received some much-needed help with the first-round selection of University of Pittsburgh cornerback Darrelle Revis, whom the Jets also moved up to take (at No. 14). He should make a quick impact, as the team struggled to fill the corner spot opposite Andre Dyson last year. Kerry Rhodes emerged at strong safety in 2006 and forms a nice tandem with free safety Erik Coleman. The unit isn't unbeatable, but the players know their assignments, and as New England showed in its Super Bowl days, a successful defense doesn't always rely on big names.

It's all about coaching, and with Mangini at the helm, that's suddenly a good thing in New York.

**FINAL GRADE**

**87**

STOCK REPORT

UP

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Andre Wadsworth**, DE

*While Thomas Jones is the new man to watch for the Jets, Wadsworth is a novelty and also worth following in training camp. The former No. 3 overall pick hasn't played in six years and is giving it a whirl. Why not?*

- Darian Barnes, RB (MIA)
- Kenyon Coleman, DE (DAL)
- Thomas Jones, RB (trade, CHI)
- Michael Haynes, DE (NO)
- Marques Tuiasosopo, QB (OAK)
- David Bowens, DE (MIA)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Patrick Ramsey, QB (DEN)
- B.J. Askew, FB (TB)
- Dave Ball, DE (CAR)

## THE COUNT

**65.1**

Chad Pennington's career completion percentage, second in NFL history behind Kurt Warner (65.6).

**425**

The number of receptions Laveranues Coles has made since 2002, ranking fifth in the league over that span.

**18**

Consecutive field goals made by Mike Nugent, who is four shy of tying Pat Leahy's franchise record of 22 straight set from 1985-86.

## JETS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Clemens, Kellen | QB | 6-2 | 223 | 06/06/1983 | 1 | Oregon |
| 10 | Pennington, Chad | QB | 6-3 | 225 | 06/26/1976 | 7 | Marshall |
| 8 | Tuiasosopo, Marques | QB | 6-1 | 220 | 03/22/1979 | 5 | Washington |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 78 | Blanton, Ed | T | 6-9 | 330 | 10/23/1982 | 0 | UCLA |
| 61 | Clarke, Adrien | G | 6-5 | 330 | 03/26/1981 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 68 | Clement, Anthony | T | 6-8 | 320 | 04/10/1976 | 9 | La.-Lafayette |
| 60 | Ferguson, D'Brickashaw | T | 6-6 | 312 | 12/10/1983 | 1 | Virginia |
| 76 | Goddard, Na'Shan | T | 6-5 | 315 | 04/23/1983 | 0 | South Carolina |
| 79 | Jones, Adrian | T | 6-5 | 296 | 06/10/1981 | 3 | Kansas |
| 66 | Kendall, Pete | G | 6-5 | 292 | 07/09/1973 | 11 | Boston College |
| 74 | Mangold, Nick | C | 6-4 | 300 | 01/13/1984 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 65 | Moore, Brandon | G | 6-3 | 295 | 06/03/1980 | 4 | Illinois |
| 71 | Smith, Wade | T | 6-4 | 318 | 04/26/1981 | 3 | Memphis |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 37 | Barnes, Darian | FB | 6-2 | 241 | 02/28/1980 | 5 | Hampton |
| 32 | Houston, Cedric | RB | 6-0 | 220 | 06/28/1982 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 20 | Jones, Thomas | RB | 5-10 | 220 | 08/19/1978 | 7 | Virginia |
| 28 | Martin, Curtis | RB | 5-11 | 210 | 05/01/1973 | 13 | Pittsburgh |
| 45 | Tutt, Stacy | RB | 6-2 | 235 | 08/08/1982 | 1 | Richmond |
| 29 | Washington, Leon | RB | 5-8 | 202 | 08/29/1982 | 1 | Florida State |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 86 | Baker, Chris | TE | 6-3 | 258 | 11/18/1979 | 5 | Michigan State |
| 87 | Coles, Laveranues | WR | 5-11 | 193 | 12/29/1977 | 7 | Florida State |
| 89 | Cotchery, Jerricho | WR | 6-0 | 207 | 06/16/1982 | 3 | North Carolina St. |
| 85 | Dearth, James | TE | 6-4 | 270 | 01/22/1976 | 7 | Tarleton State |
| 17 | Dwight, Tim | WR | 5-8 | 180 | 07/13/1975 | 9 | Iowa |
| 18 | Jackson, Frisman | WR | 6-3 | 217 | 06/12/1979 | 4 | Western Illinois |
| 40 | Kowalewski, Joe | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 11/15/1982 | 0 | Syracuse |
| 81 | McCareins, Justin | WR | 6-2 | 215 | 12/11/1978 | 6 | Northern Illinois |
| 82 | Pociask, Jason | TE | 6-3 | 267 | 02/09/1983 | 0 | Wisconsin |
| 88 | Ryan, Sean | TE | 6-5 | 265 | 03/27/1980 | 3 | Boston College |
| 16 | Smith, Brad | WR | 6-2 | 210 | 12/12/1983 | 1 | Missouri |
| 15 | Wright, Wallace | WR | 6-1 | 197 | 02/01/1984 | 1 | North Carolina |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 97 | Adams, Darrell | DE | 6-5 | 282 | 09/16/1983 | 0 | Villanova |
| 96 | Bowens, David | DE | 6-3 | 265 | 07/03/1977 | 8 | Western Illinois |
| 93 | Coleman, Kenyon | DE | 6-5 | 295 | 04/10/1979 | 5 | UCLA |
| 92 | Ellis, Shaun | DE | 6-5 | 285 | 06/24/1977 | 7 | Tennessee |
| 75 | Fitch, Zarnell | DT | 6-3 | 320 | 07/06/1983 | 0 | TCU |
| 98 | Hamilton, Bobby | DE | 6-5 | 285 | 07/01/1971 | 11 | Southern Miss |
| 94 | Haynes, Michael | DE | 6-4 | 283 | 09/13/1980 | 3 | Penn State |
| 77 | Marshall, Keyonta | DT | 6-1 | 325 | 08/13/1981 | 1 | Grand Valley State |
| 62 | McChesney, Matt | DT | 6-4 | 307 | 11/06/1981 | 1 | Colorado |
| 95 | Mosley, C.J. | DT | 6-2 | 312 | 08/06/1983 | 2 | Missouri |
| 91 | Pouha, Sione | DT | 6-3 | 325 | 02/03/1979 | 1 | Utah |
| 63 | Robertson, Dewayne | DT | 6-1 | 317 | 10/16/1981 | 4 | Kentucky |
| 99 | Thomas, Bryan | DE | 6-4 | 266 | 06/07/1979 | 5 | UAB |
| 67 | von Oelhoffen, Kimo | DT | 6-4 | 299 | 01/30/1971 | 13 | Boise State |
| 57 | Wadsworth, Andre | DE | 6-4 | 272 | 10/19/1974 | 3 | Florida State |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 36 | Barrett, David | CB | 5-10 | 195 | 12/22/1977 | 7 | Arkansas |
| 30 | Coleman, Drew | CB | 5-9 | 175 | 04/22/1983 | 1 | TCU |
| 26 | Coleman, Erik | S | 5-10 | 200 | 05/06/1982 | 3 | Washington State |
| 21 | Dyson, Andre | CB | 5-10 | 183 | 05/25/1979 | 6 | Utah |
| 20 | Hodge, Alphonso | CB | 5-10 | 203 | 05/30/1982 | 0 | Miami (OH) |
| 22 | Miller, Justin | CB | 5-10 | 196 | 02/14/1984 | 2 | Clemson |
| 31 | Poteat, Hank | CB | 5-10 | 195 | 08/30/1977 | 6 | Pittsburgh |
| 25 | Rhodes, Kerry | S | 6-3 | 210 | 08/02/1982 | 2 | Louisville |
| 33 | Smith, Eric | S | 6-1 | 209 | 03/17/1983 | 1 | Michigan State |
| 38 | Thompson, Jamie | S | 6-0 | 190 | 05/25/1983 | 1 | Oklahoma State |
| 41 | Ventrone, Raymond | S | 5-10 | 200 | 10/21/1982 | 0 | Villanova |
| 42 | Washington, Rashad | S | 6-1 | 217 | 03/15/1980 | 3 | Kansas State |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | Barton, Eric | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 09/29/1977 | 8 | Maryland |
| 58 | Chatham, Matt | LB | 6-4 | 250 | 06/28/1977 | 7 | South Dakota |
| 54 | Hobson, Victor | LB | 6-0 | 252 | 02/03/1980 | 4 | Michigan |
| 55 | Kassell, Brad | LB | 6-3 | 242 | 01/07/1980 | 5 | North Texas |
| 56 | Schlegel, Anthony | LB | 6-1 | 251 | 03/01/1981 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 53 | Spencer, Cody | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 06/01/1981 | 3 | North Texas |
| 51 | Vilma, Jonathan | LB | 6-1 | 230 | 04/16/1982 | 3 | Miami (FL) |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Graham, Ben | P | 6-5 | 220 | 11/02/1973 | 2 | None |
| 1 | Nugent, Mike | K | 5-9 | 182 | 03/02/1982 | 2 | Ohio State |

**ERIC MANGINI**, HEAD COACH

**Brian Schottenheimer**, off. coord.; **Bob Sutton**, def. coord.; **Mike Westhoff**, special teams coord.; **Bryan Cox**, asst. def. line; **Mike Devlin**, tight ends/asst. off. line; **Jim Herrmann**, linebackers; **Noel Mazzone**, wide receivers; **Jimmy Raye**, running backs; **Tony Wise**, off. line; **Mike MacIntyre**, def. backs; **Brian Daboll**, quarterbacks; **Dan Quinn**, def. line

NFL / WIRE IMAGE.COM

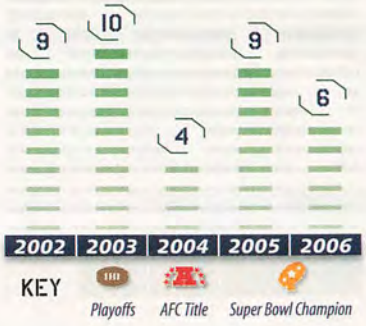
# MIAMI

# 3

**AFC EAST**

2006 Record: 6-10
www.miamidolphins.com
**DOLPHIN STADIUM**
Capacity: 74,916 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 888-FINS-TIX

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND




## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Daunte Culpepper |
| FB | Cory Schlesinger |
| RB | Ronnie Brown |
| LT | L.J. Shelton |
| LG | Chris Liwienski |
| C | Rex Hadnot |
| RG | Dan Stevenson |
| RT | Vernon Carey |
| TE | David Martin |
| WR | Chris Chambers |
| WR | Ted Ginn Jr. |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Matt Roth |
| LT | Keith Traylor |
| RT | Vonnie Holliday |
| RE | Jason Taylor |
| LLB | Joey Porter |
| MLB | Zach Thomas |
| RLB | Channing Crowder |
| LCB | Will Allen |
| RCB | Travis Daniels |
| SS | Yeremiah Bell |
| FS | Jason Allen |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Brandon Fields |
| K | Jay Feely |
| PR | Ted Ginn Jr. |
| KR | Ted Ginn Jr. |

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 2 |
| Quarterbacks | 2 |
| Running Backs | 3 |
| Receivers | 3 |
| Defensive Line | 4 |
| Linebackers | 4 |
| Secondary | 2 |
| Special Teams | 3 |
| Management | 3 |

## Moan over Miami

Nick Saban's embarrassing exit from South Beach left the Dolphins with an unproven new coach (Cam who?) and lots of questions to be answered.

The Nick Saban Era is over in Miami

Did it ever start?

Like some South Beach diet fad, Saban blew into town with a ton of fanfare. And then he left with no results. Instead of an inflated waistline after the failed fad, the Dolphins are still a paltry outfit, just like they were before the much ballyhooed Saban came on board.

Was it all a lie?

Yeah, it kind of was.

After spending the final month emphatically denying that he was interested in the vacant University of Alabama coaching job, Saban limped to the finish line in his second (and most likely last) NFL season. And then he jumped at the Alabama job.

And so the Dolphins were left wondering why they even bought into the Saban mania at all.

As part of their recovery, the organization went as far away from Saban as they could in hiring Cam Cameron. He was brought in to take the Dolphins—still dizzy and unbalanced on offense and strong on defense—to the postseason.

JC RIDLEY / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## THE BOOK ON ... *Jason Taylor* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"I'm going to watch Taylor closely this season. Can he have another season like he did last season? He was incredible and very worthy of the Defensive Player of the Year award. Taylor dominated people. The great thing about him was that his plays counted. The guy just didn't make tackles but he made plays that counted. He can get to the quarterback and he is a disruptive force who causes fumble after fumble because of his combination of body length and football smarts. Some people in the division thought he was slowing down. The guy will be 33, but he keeps in great condition and he is a smart, instinctive, intense player. It comes out on the field nearly every play. If he is as good this year as last, watch out."

In their search for a new coach, the Dolphins were looking for an offensive-oriented candidate who would make it about the team and not himself. So they looked to the most powerful offense in the NFL and at a guy known for liking to be in the background. Cameron is in this to coach. In San Diego, where he was the offensive coordinator of the high-flying Chargers' offense, he was about the players. Plus, he has a reputation as being a nice guy. Of course, being a nice, warm person who gets along with others is not a prerequisite for NFL coaching success. But in Miami, it's a nice change.

After finishing strong in 2005 to go 9-7, the Dolphins were non-factors last season, going 6-10. Miami hasn't made the playoffs since 2001. Cameron doesn't have an easy chore in changing the team's fortune. There are plenty of questions in south Florida and not a lot of immediate hope.

With Saban, because of his reputation as a coaching star at LSU and because of a Bill Belichick-like attitude, the Dolphins were expected to be good. But there are few expectations now. The Dolphins are still nowhere near the caliber of New England and have even been passed by the New York Jets as the second-best team in a so-so division. They've been relegated to competing with Buffalo to stay out of the AFC East cellar.

Still, Cameron believes a largely veteran roster can make a quick turnaround.

"There are a lot of good things in place in Miami and a great core of veteran leadership," Cameron says. "I sensed that through the interview process, and that was one thing that really excited me about coming to Miami."

Cameron is ready to put his own spin on the show. His task starts on offense, where he will be acting as his own offensive coordinator. Sure, plenty of other NFL coaches call their own plays, but those coaches have coordinators, to run offensive meetings at the very least. The man is confident.

Once again, the Dolphins' offense starts with flux at quarterback. The team tried to trade for Kansas City's Trent Green all offseason because it appears Daunte Culpepper is not healthy. Miami drafted John Beck of BYU in the second round. Apparently, the front office

### DOLPHINS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Mark Clayton** (1983-92)

*Clayton's 18 touchdown catches in 1984 are still an AFC record, and his 550 receptions and 81 scores are atop the Dolphins' all-time list.*

**2 Mark Duper** (1982-92)

*Duper has the most receiving yards by a Dolphins receiver with 8,869 and sits behind fellow "Marks Brother" Clayton with 511 receptions.*

**3 Nat Moore** (1974-86)

*Moore set all the Miami receiving records before the "Marks Brothers" finished their careers, compiling 510 catches for 7,546 yards and 74 touchdowns.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**CHANNING CROWDER**
linebacker

Crowder is becoming a major part of a star-studded defense entering his third NFL season. The University of Florida product had 187 tackles in his first two seasons. He is very instinctive, has a nose for the ball and could soon be a Pro Bowl performer.

### DID YOU KNOW

Miami Coach Cam Cameron played basketball for Bob Knight at Indiana, where he also was quarterback from 1982-83 before a knee injury his senior year ended his playing career.

The Dolphins have won six straight games and 16 of their last 17 when possessing the ball for more than 34 minutes.

Joey Porter, Miami's biggest offseason free-agent addition, ranks fourth in Pittsburgh Steelers history with 60 sacks, including seven last season.

### THE COUNT

| 12-0 | 89.5 | 5 |
|---|---|---|
| Miami's record over the past two seasons when it has had 30 or more rushing attempts. | League-high sack total of Jason Taylor, the reigning Defensive Player of the Year, since 2000. | Consecutive seasons the Dolphins have failed to make the playoffs, setting a franchise record. |

HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

### 2007 SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 | @ *Washington* | SEPT. 9 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 2 | vs. *Dallas* | SEPT. 16 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 3 | @ *New York Jets* | SEPT. 23 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 4 | vs. *Oakland* | SEPT. 30 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 5 | @ *Houston* | OCT. 7 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 6 | @ *Cleveland* | OCT. 14 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 7 | vs. *New England* | OCT. 21 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 8 | vs. *New York Giants** | OCT. 28 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 9 | *OPEN DATE* | | |
| WEEK 10 | vs. *Buffalo* | NOV. 11 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 11 | @ *Philadelphia* | NOV. 18 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 12 | @ *Pittsburgh* | NOV. 26 | 8:30 |
| WEEK 13 | vs. *New York Jets* | DEC. 2 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 14 | @ *Buffalo* | DEC. 9 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 15 | vs. *Baltimore* | DEC. 16 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 16 | @ *New England* | DEC. 23 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 17 | vs. *Cincinnati* | DEC. 30 | 1:00 |

SCORE ▼ W L

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*Joey Porter returns to Pittsburgh and the Dolphins still may be in the playoff race at the time. Porter is an emotional guy and there's sure to be some fireworks in this homecoming.*

* *in London*

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/07 | L | 17-28 | at Pittsburgh |
| 09/17 | L | 6-16 | Buffalo |
| 09/24 | W | 13-10 | Tennessee |
| 10/01 | L | 15-17 | at Houston |
| 10/08 | L | 10-20 | at New England |
| 10/15 | L | 17-20 | at New York Jets |
| 10/22 | L | 24-34 | Green Bay |
| 11/05 | W | 31-13 | at Chicago |
| 11/12 | W | 13-10 | Kansas City |
| 11/19 | W | 24-20 | Minnesota |
| 11/23 | W | 27-10 | at Detroit |
| 12/03 | L | 10-24 | Jacksonville |
| 12/10 | W | 21-0 | New England |
| 12/17 | L | 0-21 | at Buffalo |
| 12/25 | L | 10-13 | New York Jets |
| 12/31 | L | 22-27 | at Indianapolis |

WON 6, LOST 10

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brown | 241 | 1008 | 4.2 | 47 | 5 |
| Morris | 92 | 400 | 4.3 | 55 | 1 |
| Chambers | 8 | 95 | 11.9 | 39 | 0 |
| Minor | 19 | 74 | 3.9 | 9 | 0 |
| Suggs | 6 | 26 | 4.3 | 7 | 0 |
| Harrington | 19 | 24 | 1.3 | 7 | 0 |
| Culpepper | 10 | 20 | 2.0 | 7 | 1 |
| Booker | 3 | 19 | 6.3 | 18 | 0 |
| Lemon | 3 | 7 | 2.3 | 6 | 0 |
| Jones | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Dolphins** | 402 | 1673 | 4.2 | 55 | 7 |
| **Opponents** | 461 | 1618 | 3.5 | 70t | 7 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Welker | 67 | 687 | 10.3 | 38 | 1 |
| McMichael | 62 | 640 | 10.3 | 24 | 3 |
| Chambers | 59 | 677 | 11.5 | 46 | 4 |
| Booker | 55 | 747 | 13.6 | 52 | 6 |
| Brown | 33 | 276 | 8.4 | 24 | 0 |
| Hagan | 21 | 221 | 10.5 | 24 | 1 |
| Morris | 21 | 162 | 7.7 | 44 | 0 |
| Peelle | 16 | 116 | 7.3 | 25 | 1 |
| Barnes | 3 | 22 | 7.3 | 13 | 0 |
| Minor | 3 | 2 | 0.7 | 4 | 0 |
| Russell | 2 | 14 | 7.0 | 9 | 0 |
| **Dolphins** | 342 | 3577 | 10.5 | 52 | 16 |
| **Opponents** | 279 | 3275 | 11.7 | 87t | 22 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harrington | 388 | 223 | 2236 | 12 | 15 |
| Culpepper | 134 | 81 | 929 | 2 | 3 |
| Lemon | 68 | 38 | 412 | 2 | 1 |
| Brown | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Dolphins** | 591 | 342 | 3577 | 16 | 19 |
| **Opponents** | 497 | 179 | 3275 | 22 | 8 |

**SACKS**

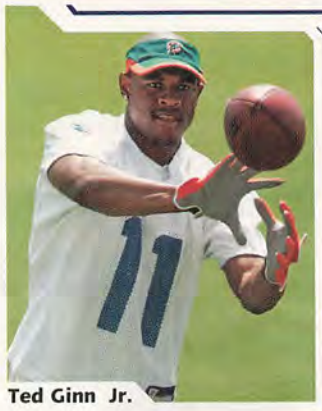
Taylor 13.5, Holliday 7, Carter 5.5, Bowens 5, Traylor 4, Roth 3.5, Thomas 3, Bell 2, Spragan 1.5, Allen 1, Crowder 1

DOLPHINS 47, OPPONENTS 41

## DRAFT REPORT

The Dolphins pulled the surprise of the first round by passing on QB Brady Quinn to select WR **Ted Ginn Jr.** While Ginn is an outstanding return man with blazing speed, he is undersized and has a ways to go as a receiver in the passing game. Finally addressing the need at quarterback, Miami selected over-aged, but fast rising, **John Beck**. With Daunte Culpepper still rehabilitating his knee injury from 2005, Beck could be pressed into action as a rookie. The versatile **Samson Satele** will push for a starting job at left guard or center. Even though Ricky Williams is expected to return from a one-year suspension for substance abuse, **Lorenzo Booker** was selected in the third round to be the third-down back. Defensive tackle **Paul Soliai** is a massive two-gap run stopper. After losing Donnie Jones to the Rams in free agency, **Brandon Fields** will be the new punter, but must show better consistency. Seventh-round pick **Abraham Wright** could surprise as an outside pass-rush specialist in the 3-4 defense. Fullback **Reagan Mauia**, center **Drew Mormino** and linebacker **Kelvin Smith** will compete for a spot on the practice squad.

GRADE **B**



Ted Ginn Jr.

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | Ginn Jr., Ted | WR | 6-0 | 180 | Ohio State |
| 2 | 8 | Beck, John | QB | 6-2 | 212 | Brigham Young |
| 2 | 28 | Satele, Samson | C | 6-3 | 311 | Hawaii |
| 3 | 7 | Booker, Lorenzo | RB | 5-11 | 195 | Florida State |
| 4 | 9 | Soliai, Paul | DT | 6-4 | 315 | Utah |
| 6 | 7 | Mauia, Reagan | RB | 6-0 | 351 | Hawaii |
| 6 | 25 | Mormino, Drew | C | 6-4 | 301 | Central Michigan |
| 7 | 9 | Smith, Kelvin | LB | 6-2 | 233 | Syracuse |
| 7 | 15 | Fields, Brandon | P | 6-6 | 235 | Michigan State |
| 7 | 28 | Wright, Abraham | DE | 6-3 | 240 | Colorado |

liked Beck so much, they had him rated over Notre Dame's Brady Quinn, whom they bypassed with the No. 9 pick in favor of receiver/returner Ted Ginn Jr. of Ohio State.

There is more stability at the skill positions. The Dolphins hope third-year running back Ronnie Brown continues to show he can be durable. Last season, Brown rushed for 1,008 yards on 241 carries. Cameron is used to having LaDainian Tomlinson set the table for his offense, so expect Brown to get a chance to carry the ball 20 to 25 times a game. In Brown's 13 games played last season, he had 25 or more attempts on just three occasions. The Dolphins, who made Brown the No. 2 overall draft pick in 2005, like what Brown brings, but he needs to take another step to become a true bellcow back.

The running game may have to pick up the slack if receiver Chris Chambers continues to go the wrong way. In his sixth year, Chambers had his worst campaign in four seasons, catching only 59 balls (23 fewer than 2005). This is supposed to be a player in his prime. Yes, there have been quarterback issues in Miami, but if Chambers is a true No. 1 receiver, he needs to be a consistent 80-catch player. Second receiver Marty Booker is average, not spectacular. He had 55 catches last year and should be penciled in for another 50 or so in his ninth NFL season.

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Dolphins)*

"Cam Cameron was a great offensive coordinator in San Diego, but can he be the man in Miami? OK, the [Nick] Saban experiment didn't work in Miami, but that's because Saban wasn't patient. He [Saban] is a great coach. Who knows if Cameron is? He certainly didn't burn it up at Indiana [University] as the head coach [from 1997-2001]. ... The Dolphins still have way to much flux on offense. ... Ronnie Brown is good, but he isn't that durable. You can't rely on him. ... Once again, the Dolphins' chance to win big will be on defense. Jason Taylor and Zach Thomas are getting old, but they can still make plays—and they'll have to if this team is going to win."

DOUG BENC / GETTY IMAGES

There will be more opportunities for everyone without No. 3 receiver Wes Welker (traded to New England) and tight end Randy McMichael (St. Louis). Welker had 67 catches and McMichael 62. The team hopes Ginn can pick up some of that slack as a rookie, but someone else needs to step up. David Martin comes over from Green Bay and should start at tight end, but he is more of a blocker and has never had more than 27 catches in six NFL seasons. The Dolphins will need the extra blocking.

Left tackle Damion McIntosh departed through free agency to Kansas City. L.J. Shelton could start at left tackle, but he is better suited as a right guard. The team is solid at right tackle with the ever-improving Vernon Carey and at center with Rex Hadnot. But this isn't a great offensive line, so there may be some growing pains.

As usual, though, if the Dolphins are going to win, it's going to be with defense. While they lost some offensive firepower, they brought in some defensive star power in the form of linebacker Joey Porter, the former Steelers star. Porter was one of the biggest names to switch teams in the NFL offseason. His final year in Pittsburgh was tainted by injuries, but Porter is an emotional leader and expect him to work hard to show new Steelers Coach Mike Tomlin that he made a mistake in canning him.

Porter should work well with end Jason Taylor and linebacker Zach Thomas. Both of those players showed in 2006 that they are far from being done. At 32, Taylor was named NFL Defensive Player of the Year after a highlight-reel season that included 13.5 sacks, nine forced fumbles and two touchdowns. In his 11th season, there's no reason to believe he won't be a major difference-maker again.

Thomas, going into his 12th year, registered a career-high 165 tackles last season. The 33-year-old keeps himself in great shape and seemingly wills himself to make plays at times. The addition of Porter should only energize Thomas. Porter and Thomas will have help at linebacker, as third-year player Channing Crowder is coming off a 103-tackle season himself.

The secondary is the weak spot of the Miami defense. Will Allen is just OK at cornerback and Travis Daniels is coming off an injury-plagued season. The team needs 2006 first-round pick Jason Allen to emerge quickly.

**FINAL GRADE**

**70**

STOCK REPORT: STEADY

HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Joey Porter**, LB (PIT)

*This is one of the most intriguing players on the move. It was a shock when Pittsburgh cut him. The Dolphins are banking that Porter is healthy and not just a product of the Steelers' defensive system. If it works, the Miami defense could be dominant.*

- Jay Feely, K (NYG)
- David Martin, TE (GB)
- Cameron Worrell, S (CHI)
- Az-Zahir Hakim, WR (SD)
- Chris Liwienski, OT (ARI)
- Mike Rosenthal, OT (MIN)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Dan Wilkinson, DT (trade, DEN)
- Damion McIntosh, OT (KC)
- Darian Barnes, RB (NYJ)
- Kevin Carter, DE (TB)
- Randy McMichael, TE (STL)
- Travis Minor, RB (STL)
- Sammy Morris, RB (NE)
- Wes Welker, WR (trade, NE)
- Jeff Zgonina, DT (HOU)
- Toniu Fonoti, OG (ATL)
- Eddie Jackson, DB (NE)
- David Bowens, DE (NYJ)
- Olindo Mare, K (trade, NO)
- Joey Harrington, QB (ATL)
- Donnie Jones, P (STL)
- Manuel Wright, DT (BUF)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 310.0 | 20 |
| Rushing | 104.6 | 22 |
| Passing | 205.4 | 13 |
| Scoring | 260 | 29 |
| Punt Returns | 9.2 | 11 |
| Kick Returns | 21.2 | 27 |
| Red Zone TD % | 43.5 | 24 |
| Total Defense | 289.1 | 4 |
| Against Rush | 101.1 | 8 |
| Against Pass | 187.9 | 5 |
| Points Allowed | 283 | 5 |
| Interceptions | 8 | 31 |
| Sacks | 47 | 3 |
| Turnover Diff. | +2 | 13t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 281 | 82 | 180 | 19 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 46 | 186 | 20 | 15 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 16 | 0 | 3 |

## DOLPHINS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | Culpepper, Daunte | QB | 6-4 | 265 | 01/28/1977 | 8 | UCF |
| 5 | Hamdan, Gibran | QB | 6-4 | 220 | 02/08/1981 | 1 | Indiana |
| 17 | Lemon, Cleo | QB | 6-2 | 215 | 08/16/1979 | 1 | Arkansas State |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 79 | Alabi, Anthony | T | 6-5 | 315 | 02/16/1981 | 1 | TCU |
| 72 | Carey, Vernon | T | 6-5 | 335 | 07/31/1981 | 3 | Miami (FL) |
| 66 | Hadnot, Rex | G | 6-2 | 325 | 01/28/1982 | 3 | Houston |
| 68 | Ingram, Johnathan | C | 6-2 | 290 | 09/20/1980 | 1 | San Diego State |
| 76 | Liwienski, Chris | G | 6-5 | 321 | 08/02/1975 | 8 | Indiana |
| 78 | Rosenthal, Mike | T | 6-7 | 318 | 06/10/1977 | 8 | Notre Dame |
| 70 | Shelton, L.J. | T | 6-6 | 345 | 03/21/1976 | 8 | Eastern Michigan |
| 73 | Stevenson, Dan | G | 6-5 | 300 | 10/04/1982 | 0 | Notre Dame |
| 67 | Toledo, Joe | T | 6-5 | 337 | 10/20/1982 | 0 | Washington |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | Brown, Ronnie | RB | 6-0 | 232 | 12/12/1981 | 2 | Auburn |
| 28 | Chatman, Jesse | RB | 5-8 | 245 | 09/22/1979 | 3 | E. Washington |
| 38 | Cobbs, Patrick | RB | 5-9 | 210 | 01/31/1983 | 1 | North Texas |
| 40 | Eckel, Kyle | FB | 5-11 | 245 | 12/30/1981 | 0 | Navy |
| 33 | Perkins, Ray | RB | 5-11 | 198 | 11/06/1982 | 0 | SE Louisiana |
| 30 | Schlesinger, Cory | RB | 6-0 | 247 | 06/23/1972 | 12 | Nebraska |

| # | RECEIVERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 86 | Booker, Marty | WR | 6-0 | 210 | 07/31/1976 | 8 | Louisiana-Monroe |
| 80 | Campbell, Kelly | WR | 5-10 | 171 | 07/23/1980 | 3 | Georgia Tech |
| 84 | Chambers, Chris | WR | 5-11 | 210 | 08/12/1978 | 6 | Wisconsin |
| 82 | Hagan, Derek | WR | 6-2 | 203 | 09/21/1984 | 1 | Arizona State |
| 81 | Hakim, Az-Zahir | WR | 5-10 | 189 | 06/03/1977 | 9 | San Diego State |
| 49 | Halterman, Aaron | TE | 6-4 | 260 | 03/31/1982 | 0 | Indiana |
| 88 | Martin, David | TE | 6-4 | 265 | 03/13/1979 | 6 | Tennessee |
| 89 | Massaquoi, Tim | TE | 6-2 | 253 | 07/08/1982 | 1 | Michigan |
| 87 | Peelle, Justin | TE | 6-4 | 255 | 03/15/1979 | 5 | Oregon |
| 85 | Rader, Jason | TE | 6-4 | 274 | 04/12/1981 | 1 | Marshall |
| 14 | Sam, P.K. | WR | 6-3 | 210 | 02/26/1983 | 1 | Florida State |
| 16 | Vick, Marcus | WR | 6-0 | 216 | 03/20/1984 | 1 | Virginia Tech |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 97 | Denney, John | DE | 6-5 | 270 | 12/13/1978 | 2 | Brigham Young |
| 62 | Evans, Frederick | DT | 6-4 | 305 | 11/06/1983 | 1 | Texas State |
| 91 | Holliday, Vonnie | DE | 6-5 | 288 | 12/11/1975 | 9 | North Carolina |
| 95 | Page, Chase | DT | 6-4 | 295 | 05/20/1983 | 0 | North Carolina |
| 98 | Roth, Matt | DE | 6-4 | 272 | 10/14/1982 | 2 | Iowa |
| 99 | Taylor, Jason | DE | 6-6 | 255 | 09/01/1974 | 10 | Akron |
| 94 | Traylor, Keith | DT | 6-2 | 337 | 09/03/1969 | 15 | Central Oklahoma |
| 92 | Vickerson, Kevin | DT | 6-5 | 305 | 01/08/1983 | 0 | Michigan State |
| 95 | Wilkinson, Dan | DT | 6-4 | 340 | 03/13/1973 | 13 | Ohio State |
| 75 | Wright, Manuel | DT | 6-6 | 329 | 04/13/1984 | 1 | USC |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 32 | Allen, Jason | S | 6-1 | 213 | 07/05/1983 | 1 | Tennessee |
| 25 | Allen, Will | CB | 5-10 | 196 | 08/05/1978 | 6 | Syracuse |
| 37 | Bell, Yeremiah | S | 6-0 | 200 | 03/03/1978 | 3 | Eastern Kentucky |
| 29 | Daniels, Travis | CB | 6-1 | 192 | 09/08/1982 | 2 | LSU |
| 21 | Goodman, Andre' | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 08/11/1978 | 5 | South Carolina |
| 24 | Hill, Renaldo | S | 5-11 | 190 | 11/12/1978 | 6 | Michigan State |
| 22 | Lehan, Michael | CB | 6-0 | 190 | 11/25/1979 | 4 | Minnesota |
| 27 | Mitchell, Shirdonya | CB | 5-11 | 183 | 05/16/1982 | 1 | Missouri |
| 26 | Tillman, Travares | S | 6-1 | 205 | 10/08/1977 | 6 | Georgia Tech |
| 44 | Worrell, Cameron | S | 5-11 | 194 | 12/14/1979 | 3 | Fresno State |

| # | LINEBACKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 52 | Crowder, Channing | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 12/02/1983 | 2 | Florida |
| 93 | Gbaja-Biamila, Akbar | LB | 6-5 | 270 | 05/06/1979 | 3 | San Diego State |
| 47 | Iwuchukwu, Bobby | LB | 6-2 | 246 | 08/01/1983 | 0 | Purdue |
| 57 | Maxwell, Jim | LB | 6-4 | 242 | 08/08/1981 | 3 | Gardner-Webb |
| 51 | McCune, Robert | LB | 6-0 | 240 | 03/09/1979 | 1 | Louisville |
| 56 | Pope, Derrick | LB | 6-0 | 232 | 05/04/1982 | 3 | Alabama |
| 55 | Porter, Joey | LB | 6-3 | 250 | 03/22/1977 | 8 | Colorado State |
| 59 | Spragan, Donnie | LB | 6-3 | 242 | 07/12/1976 | 5 | Stanford |
| 54 | Thomas, Zach | LB | 5-11 | 228 | 09/01/1973 | 11 | Texas Tech |

| # | KICKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Feely, Jay | K | 5-10 | 210 | 05/23/1976 | 6 | Michigan |
| 6 | Flinn, Ryan | P | 6-5 | 210 | 02/14/1980 | 1 | UCF |

**CAM CAMERON**, HEAD COACH

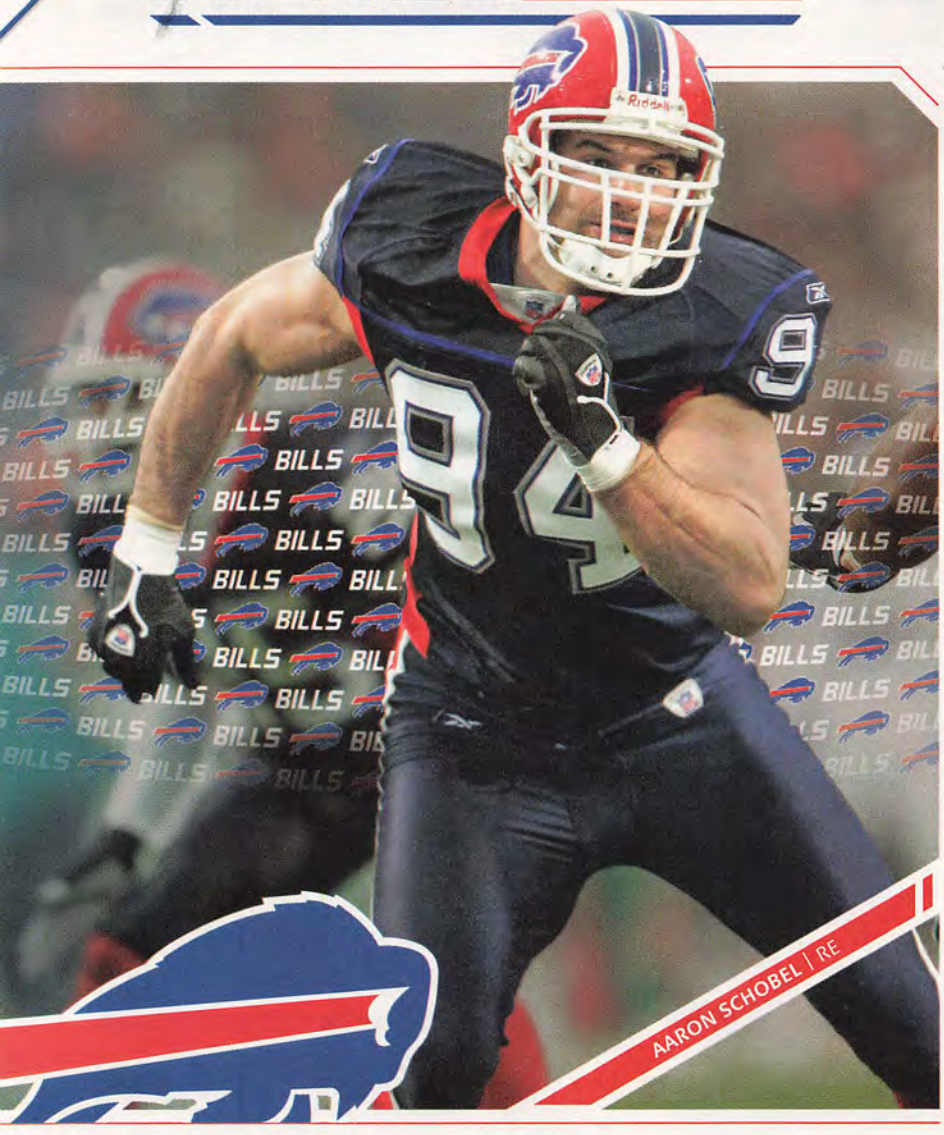
**Keith Armstrong**, special teams coord.; **Dom Capers**, def. coord.; **Tim Davis**, asst. off. line; **George Edwards**, linebackers; **Steve Hoffman**, asst. special teams; **Hudson Houck**, off. line; **Travis Jones**, def. ends; **Brett Maxie**, safeties; **Mike Mularkey**, tight ends; **Mel Phillips**, cornerbacks; **Glenn Pires**, asst. linebackers; **Diron Reynolds**, def. tackles; **Terry Robiskie**, wide receivers; **Terry Shea**, quarterbacks; **Bobby Jackson**, running backs

# BUFFALO

# 4

**AFC EAST**

2006 Record: 7-9
www.buffalobills.com
RALPH WILSON STADIUM
Capacity: 73,967 Turf: Artificial
Tickets: 877-BB-TICKS




## Picking up the pieces

As other AFC East teams got better this offseason, Buffalo lost several key players and now must make do with replacement parts.

For a team coming off a 7-9 season and one without much star power anyway, the story heading into the 2007 season needs to be about what is upcoming, not who has left. But in Buffalo, the story is all about making up for the players who departed during the offseason. In a strange turn of events, one high-profile player after another fled one of the most obscure rosters in the NFL. In a matter of weeks, star running back

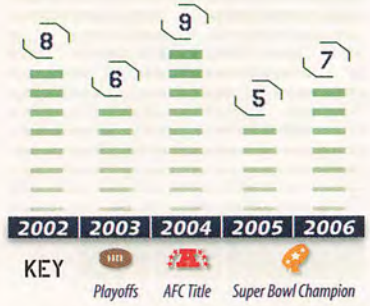
### BILLS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Andre Reed (1985-99)**
*A seven-time Pro Bowler, Reed is the all-time leading receiver in Bills history with 941 receptions, 13,095 yards and 86 touchdowns.*

**2 Eric Moulds (1996-2005)**
*Moulds reached the 1,000-yard receiving mark four times and caught 48 touchdowns in 10 seasons with the Bills.*

**3 Bob Chandler (1971-79)**
*In nine seasons with the Bills, Chandler was one yard from matching the 4,000-yard receiving mark and one score from 35 touchdowns.*

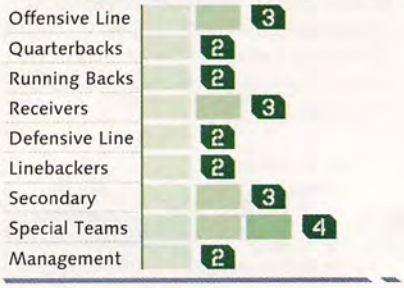
### 5-YEAR WINS TREND




### PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | J.P. Losman |
| FB | Dwayne Wright |
| RB | Marshawn Lynch |
| LT | Jason Peters |
| LG | Derrick Dockery |
| C | Melvin Fowler |
| RG | Duke Preston |
| RT | Langston Walker |
| TE | Robert Royal |
| WR | Lee Evans |
| WR | Peerless Price |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Chris Kelsay |
| LT | Larry Tripplett |
| RT | Kyle Williams |
| RE | Aaron Schobel |
| LLB | Angelo Crowell |
| MLB | Paul Posluszny |
| RLB | Keith Ellison |
| LCB | Terrence McGee |
| RCB | Kiwaukee Thomas |
| SS | Donté Whitner |
| FS | Ko Simpson |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Brian Moorman |
| K | Rian Lindell |
| PR | Roscoe Parrish |
| KR | Terrence McGee |

### POWER RATINGS




JOHN SOKOLOWSKI

Willis McGahee was traded, as was linebacker Takeo Spikes, while cornerback Nate Clements and linebacker London Fletcher-Baker left via free agency.

As quarterback J.P. Losman finally showed signs of being a legitimate NFL quarterback down the stretch last season, the thought about the 2007 Bills was that this could be a team on the rise, even a potential wild-card team. The key, though, was for former coach-turned-General Manager Marv Levy and second-year Coach Dick Jauron to have a strong offseason. The Bills needed to make some noise to be considered a real sleeper in the AFC.

Any noise the Bills made was apparently only the sound of sleeping. As a result, this team can't realistically be considered a threat to New England or the New York Jets in the AFC East, and it isn't scaring any of the wild card contenders, either.

Somehow, the Bills regressed. Again, this wasn't exactly a roster that could take hits. Still, Jauron says that the team will have a chance to progress even without McGahee, Spikes, Clements and Fletcher-Baker. It's clear Jauron is simply not concerned about the subtractions. In fact, the defensive guru is taking a strong stance, if not a surprisingly upbeat one.

"I believe you don't want to hide from the truth, and the truth is we have high expectations," Jauron says.

Wow. The man has confidence. Jauron went on to say that he hopes everyone and every team dwells on who departed Buffalo in the offseason.

"There's no doubt that we're going to miss the guys we lost," Jauron admitted. "We're going to field the best team we can. We feel pretty comfortable with the guys we've been developing. But you don't lose players the quality of Nate Clements and London Fletcher-Baker in free agency and Takeo [Spikes] in [a] trade and think they are going to be easily replaced. We've got to count on some younger people and some young veterans to step up and play at a higher level than they have. Of course we've got the draft coming up and free agency is not over. We'll move along and try to replace the people we've lost and fill in with the guys that we've been developing."

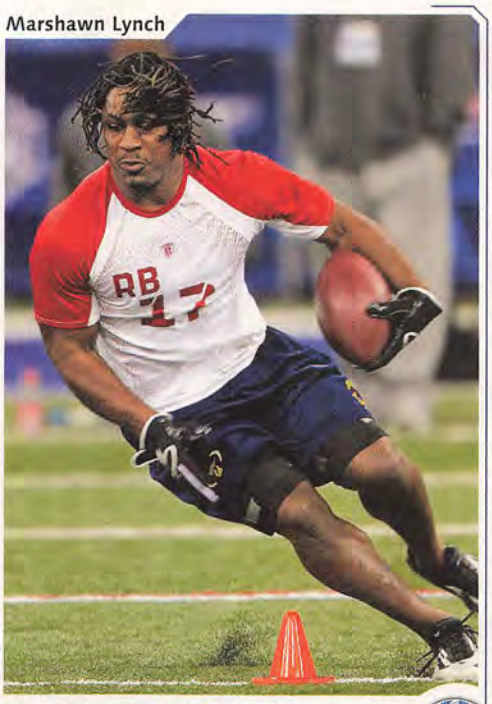
As far as replacing McGahee, who accounted for 3,365 rushing yards the past three seasons before being dealt to Baltimore for the Ravens'

## THE BOOK ON ...

### J.P. Losman *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"If the Bills have a chance to improve, it will be because of Losman. The guy has suddenly given himself a second chance at being a solid NFL quarterback. Until he woke up late last season, he seemed like another first-round quarterback bust. But Losman was actually effective. The kid has skills but the question about him was always his desire and his attitude. When he came out from Tulane, many coaches who met him were a little put off by his personality. But maybe he has come into his own. If Losman continues to progress, I think this is a team on the rise."

Marshawn Lynch



THOMAS E. WITTE / GETTY IMAGES

## DRAFT REPORT

After trading RB Willis McGahee to the Baltimore Ravens, Buffalo was looking to add a feature back and did just that, taking **Marshawn Lynch** with the 12th overall pick. Lynch is an outstanding runner and receiver and shows the skills needed to be an every-down feature back. The Bills did well trading up in Round Two to select **Paul Posluszny**, an instinctive linebacker from Penn State who can play all three positions. Quarterback **Trent Edwards** was expected to be an early second-round selection, but had to wait until the third round to hear his named called. **Dwayne Wright** is a power back who lacks speed and must stay healthy. **John Wendling** could be the surprise of the Bills' draft, as the Wyoming standout is an underrated athlete who plays the run and pass extremely well. **Derek Schouman** is best suited for the H-back position where he can use his skills as a receiver. However, Schouman's blocking skills must improve if he is to be used at fullback. The athletic **C.J. Ah You** must prove his off-the-field troubles in college and character concerns are a thing of the past.

**GRADE B-**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 12 | Lynch, Marshawn | RB | 5-11 | 217 | California |
| 2 | 2 | Posluszny, Paul | LB | 6-1 | 238 | Penn State |
| 3 | 29 | Edwards, Trent | QB | 6-4 | 220 | Stanford |
| 4 | 12 | Wright, Dwayne | RB | 6-1 | 220 | Fresno State |
| 6 | 10 | Wendling, John | S | 6-1 | 222 | Wyoming |
| 7 | 12 | Schouman, Derek | RB | 6-2 | 233 | Boise State |
| 7 | 29 | Ah You, C.J. | DE | 6-4 | 275 | Oklahoma |

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. *Denver*
SEPT. 9 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 2** @ *Pittsburgh*
SEPT. 16 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 3** @ *New England*
SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 4** vs. *New York Jets*
SEPT. 30 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 5** vs. *Dallas*
OCT. 8 | 8:30
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 6** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 7** vs. *Baltimore*
OCT. 21 | 1:00
**MUST-SEE GAME**
*Expect Bills fans to be unruly when Willis McGahee returns. After his trade to the Ravens, the running back ripped everything about Buffalo, including the female population.*
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 8** @ *New York Jets*
OCT. 28 | 4:05
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 9** vs. *Cincinnati*
NOV. 4 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 10** @ *Miami*
NOV. 11 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 11** vs. *New England*
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 12** @ *Jacksonville*
NOV. 25 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 13** @ *Washington*
DEC. 2 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 14** vs. *Miami*
DEC. 9 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 15** @ *Cleveland*
DEC. 16 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 16** vs. *New York Giants*
DEC. 23 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 17** @ *Philadelphia*
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 17-19 | at New England |
| 09/17 | W | 16-6 | at Miami |
| 09/24 | L | 20-28 | New York Jets |
| 10/01 | W | 17-12 | Minnesota |
| 10/08 | L | 7-40 | at Chicago |
| 10/15 | L | 17-20 | at Detroit |
| 10/22 | L | 6-28 | New England |
| 11/05 | W | 24-10 | Green Bay |
| 11/12 | L | 16-17 | at Indianapolis |
| 11/19 | W | 24-21 | at Houston |
| 11/26 | W | 27-24 | Jacksonville |
| 12/03 | L | 21-24 | San Diego |
| 12/10 | W | 31-13 | at New York Jets |
| 12/17 | W | 21-0 | Miami |
| 12/24 | L | 29-30 | Tennessee |
| 12/31 | L | 7-19 | at Baltimore |

WON 7, LOST 9

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| McGahee | 259 | 990 | 3.8 | 57t | 6 |
| A. Thomas | 107 | 378 | 3.5 | 19 | 2 |
| Losman | 38 | 140 | 3.7 | 15 | 1 |
| Parrish | 2 | 18 | 9.0 | 11 | 0 |
| Price | 5 | 18 | 3.6 | 9 | 0 |
| Reed | 4 | 13 | 3.3 | 15 | 0 |
| Moorman | 2 | 2 | 1.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Williams | 2 | 2 | 1.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Royal | 1 | -9 | -9.0 | -9 | 0 |
| **Bills** | 420 | 1552 | 3.7 | 57t | 9 |
| **Opponents** | 476 | 2254 | 4.7 | 52 | 14 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Evans | 82 | 1292 | 15.8 | 83t | 8 |
| Price | 49 | 402 | 8.2 | 25 | 3 |
| Reed | 34 | 410 | 12.1 | 52 | 2 |
| Parrish | 23 | 320 | 13.9 | 51t | 2 |
| Royal | 23 | 233 | 10.1 | 33t | 3 |
| A. Thomas | 22 | 139 | 6.3 | 18 | 0 |
| McGahee | 18 | 156 | 8.7 | 56 | 0 |
| Shelton | 7 | 35 | 5.0 | 14 | 0 |
| Cieslak | 6 | 46 | 7.7 | 13 | 0 |
| Davis | 2 | 13 | 6.5 | 8 | 0 |
| Neufeld | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4t | 1 |
| Everett | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| **Bills** | 268 | 3051 | 11.4 | 83t | 19 |
| **Opponents** | 32 | 3284 | 10.1 | 62 | 18 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Losman | 429 | 268 | 3051 | 19 | 14 |
| Evans | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Moorman | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Bills** | 431 | 268 | 3051 | 19 | 14 |
| **Opponents** | 513 | 324 | 3284 | 18 | 13 |

**SACKS**

Schobel 14, Denney 6, Kelsay 5.5, Tripplett 2.5, Crowell 2, Fletcher-Baker 2, Hargrove 1.5, Ellison 1, Simpson 1, Spikes 1

BILLS 37.5, OPPONENTS 47

2007 third- and seventh-round draft choices and another third-round pick in 2008, the Bills jumped on former California running back Marshawn Lynch with the No. 12 overall pick in the 2007 Draft. Lynch should be an instant starter. The Bills overlooked other team needs to take a stab at the shifty and versatile back.

Angelo Crowell, who played strong-side last season, will likely replace Fletcher-Baker (now with Washington) on the inside. Crowell had 119 tackles in 2005 and 82 last season. Jauron thinks Crowell can play the spot because of his instincts and zeal.

Spikes, traded to Philadelphia along with backup quarterback Kelly Holcomb for defensive tackle Darwin Walker, was battling injuries and a production decline. The team should have training camp competition to replace Spikes. Clements stunned the league when he signed an $80 million deal with San Francisco, making him the highest-paid defensive player in league history. He was solid but not elite during his time in Buffalo, and, as with Spikes, there will be training camp competition to find Clements' replacement.

The one player who does remain in Buffalo is Losman, and that finally may be a good thing. The 2004 first-round draft choice was considered a bust after not doing much in his first two seasons. However, Losman came alive last year during his first full season as a starter.

### DID YOU KNOW

Last season the Bills averaged 300 yards in their final seven games, a 59-yard improvement compared with the first nine. Buffalo also scored 17 of its 28 offensive touchdowns during that stretch.

The 2006 Bills were the most disciplined in franchise history, as they committed only 88 penalties for 629 yards, both team lows in a single season.

Quarterback J.P. Losman's 3,051 yards passing were the most by a Buffalo player since Drew Bledsoe threw for 4,359 in 2002.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**DONTÉ WHITNER**
safety

Many people panned the Bills for taking Whitner with the No. 8 overall pick in the 2006 NFL Draft, but few are squawking now. Whitner could become the next great safety. He had 104 tackles last season. The Ohio State product can hit and knows the game. Whitner will only get better.

He threw for 3,051 yards and 19 touchdowns, completing 62.5 percent of his passes. Losman also showed leadership and a passion for the game, both traits that had been questioned previously. Jauron believes Losman's progress will continue.

"We have to focus on getting him better every day, which is not an easy thing but it's made a lot easier because he's got a great attitude about work and about what he wants to be," Jauron says. "We've got a real chance there and we have to develop the players around him to give him that chance. Then the whole thing moves forward. ... He's clearly the guy now and I feel good about it. This is not a guy who thinks he's arrived and I hope he never does. He likes to work, likes the game and wants to be good at it. And he's a skilled athlete. We're optimistic about it."

Losman's top receiving targets will be Lee Evans and Peerless Price. Evans emerged in 2006 (his third season) with 82 catches for 1,292 yards and eight touchdowns. If he continues to progress, Evans will be a fine No. 1 receiver. Price had a decent bounceback season with 49 catches last year, but will be 31 in October and needs to show he can continue to be consistent.

While the Bills lost some defensive players, they concentrated on the offensive line in free agency. They signed tackles Langston Walker and Jason Whittle and guard Derrick Dockery. That group should help

### NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 266.9 | 30 | Total Defense | 329.6 | 18 |
| Rushing | 97.0 | 27 | Against Rush | 140.9 | 28 |
| Passing | 169.9 | 28 | Against Pass | 188.7 | 7 |
| Scoring | 300 | 23 | Points Allowed | 311 | 10 |
| Punt Returns | 10.8 | 5 | Interceptions | 13 | 24 |
| Kick Returns | 23.9 | 6 | Sacks | 40 | 8t |
| Red Zone TD % | 42.9 | 26 | Turnover Diff. | -5 | 23t |

**FIRST DOWNS**

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 234 | 82 | 132 | 20 |

**RED ZONE OFFENSE**

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | 150 | 15 | 15 |

**TOUCHDOWNS**

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 19 | 5 | 4 |

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Bills)*

"[Coach] Dick Jauron doesn't get too many people excited, but he did a nice job in Buffalo last season. This team could be a sleeper in the AFC and it's because of Jauron. ... You look at the roster and there isn't much to get excited about, especially after the Bills dealt Willis McGahee and Takeo Spikes. There isn't a lot of star power here. ... The team did in a nice job in free agency, loading up on the offensive line. It should be much improved on the O-line. ... The defense has a lot of holes. It will miss Nate Clements."

solidify a decent line, but Walker and Whittle are not impact tackles.

Defensively, the Bills will need some young players to emerge. John McCargo, a first-round pick in 2006, needs to come along faster than he did last season. McCargo played in just five games. The team's other 2006 first-round selection, Donte Whitner, was better. He had 104 tackles and showed signs of being a defensive leader. Perhaps the best holdover is defensive end Chris Kelsay, who had 5.5 sacks last season.

However, like the offense, Buffalo's defense needs young players to step forward as it tries to overcome the offseason of change.

"There's every reason to believe that it [the team] can get better," Jauron says. "That being said, we've got to be realistic, too. We've got to give our organization and our players a chance to do that without being unrealistic. Depending on who is in there, there's going to be a learning curve. If that's the case, we as a football team have to pick up the slack. Offensively we need to run the ball better, we need to score more points, we need to keep our defense off the field. Even if our defense is playing great, we still have to do that on offense. But if we're developing a little slower on defense, then we'll really need to do that on offense. And our special teams can't take a step back. A lot of pressure on everybody."

Sure, there are issues in Buffalo. But Jauron is ignoring them.

"There's lots of questions about what we have done and we understand that," he says. "We have to make them be the right decisions. We have to get our team ready for when the season begins we're performing. You feel like you took a step backward as an organization if there weren't expectations. We're believers. We believe we're doing the right things and we have talent. So we'll see what happens."

**FINAL GRADE**

**62**

STOCK REPORT: STEADY

## THE COUNT

**7**

Consecutive seasons without a playoff appearance, the longest drought since the Bills joined the NFL in 1970.

**25.5**

Number of combined sacks for defensive ends Aaron Schobel (14), Ryan Denney (6) and Chris Kelsay (5.5).

**995**

The combined weight of offensive linemen Derrick Dockery, Langston Walker and Jason Whittle, all free-agent signings this past offseason.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Derrick Dockery,** OG (WAS)

*Dockery is one of two new starters on the offensive line that was brought in through free agency in the offseason. The former Redskin is big and tough, and could anchor the new-look Buffalo line.*

- Langston Walker, OT (OAK)
- Jason Whittle, OT (MIN)
- Darwin Walker, DT (trade, PHI)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Willis McGahee, RB (trade, BAL)
- Nate Clements, CB (SF)
- Takeo Spikes, LB (trade, PHI)
- Kelly Holcomb, QB (trade, PHI)
- Andre Davis, WR (HOU)
- Mike Gandy, OT (ARI)

## BILLS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Losman, J.P. | QB | 6-2 | 217 | 03/12/1981 | 3 | Tulane |
| 16 | Nall, Craig | QB | 6-3 | 230 | 04/21/1979 | 2 | Northwestern St. |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 60 | Butler, Brad | T | 6-6 | 292 | 09/18/1983 | 1 | Virginia |
| 73 | Chambers, Kirk | G | 6-7 | 314 | 03/19/1979 | 2 | Stanford |
| 66 | Dockery, Derrick | G | 6-6 | 345 | 09/07/1980 | 4 | Texas |
| 67 | Fowler, Melvin | C | 6-3 | 295 | 03/31/1979 | 5 | Maryland |
| 62 | Merz, Aaron | G | 6-4 | 340 | 08/27/1983 | 1 | California |
| 79 | Pennington, Terrance | T | 6-7 | 319 | 09/25/1983 | 1 | New Mexico |
| 71 | Peters, Jason | T | 6-4 | 328 | 01/22/1982 | 3 | Arkansas |
| 75 | Preston, Duke | G | 6-5 | 311 | 06/12/1982 | 2 | Illinois |
| 54 | Schneck, Mike | C | 6-0 | 246 | 08/04/1977 | 8 | Wisconsin |
| 68 | Walker, Langston | T | 6-8 | 345 | 09/03/1979 | 5 | California |
| 65 | Whittle, Jason | G | 6-4 | 305 | 03/07/1975 | 9 | Missouri State |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | Thomas, Anthony | RB | 6-2 | 225 | 11/07/1977 | 6 | Michigan |
| 35 | Scobey, Josh | RB | 6-0 | 220 | 12/11/1979 | 5 | Kansas State |
| 36 | Williams, Shaud | RB | 5-7 | 193 | 10/02/1980 | 3 | Alabama |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 89 | Aiken, Sam | WR | 6-2 | 204 | 12/14/1980 | 4 | North Carolina |
| 86 | Cieslak, Brad | TE | 6-3 | 262 | 07/01/1982 | 2 | Northern Illinois |
| 83 | Evans, Lee | WR | 5-10 | 197 | 03/11/1981 | 3 | Wisconsin |
| 85 | Everett, Kevin | TE | 6-4 | 241 | 02/05/1982 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 87 | Murphy, Matt | TE | 6-5 | 268 | 02/23/1980 | 5 | Maryland |
| 88 | Neufeld, Ryan | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 11/22/1975 | 6 | UCLA |
| 11 | Parrish, Roscoe | WR | 5-9 | 168 | 07/16/1982 | 2 | Miami (FL) |
| 81 | Price, Peerless | WR | 5-11 | 190 | 10/27/1976 | 8 | Tennessee |
| 82 | Reed, Josh | WR | 5-10 | 208 | 05/01/1980 | 5 | LSU |
| 84 | Royal, Robert | TE | 6-4 | 260 | 05/15/1979 | 4 | LSU |
| 15 | Wilson, George | WR | 6-0 | 205 | 03/14/1981 | 1 | Arkansas |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 77 | Anderson, Tim | DT | 6-3 | 304 | 11/22/1980 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 92 | Denney, Ryan | DE | 6-7 | 275 | 06/15/1977 | 5 | Brigham Young |
| 93 | Hargrove, Anthony | DE | 6-3 | 272 | 07/20/1983 | 3 | Georgia Tech |
| 99 | Jefferson, Jason | DT | 6-1 | 310 | 12/20/1981 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 90 | Kelsay, Chris | DE | 6-4 | 275 | 10/31/1979 | 4 | Nebraska |
| 97 | McCargo, John | DT | 6-2 | 295 | 08/19/1983 | 1 | North Carolina St. |
| 91 | Powell, Eric | DE | 6-3 | 268 | 11/16/1979 | 0 | Florida State |
| 94 | Schobel, Aaron | DE | 6-4 | 262 | 09/01/1977 | 6 | TCU |
| 98 | Tripplett, Larry | DT | 6-2 | 295 | 01/18/1979 | 5 | Washington |
| 96 | Walker, Darwin | DT | 6-3 | 294 | 06/15/1977 | 7 | Tennessee |
| 95 | Williams, Kyle | DT | 6-1 | 295 | 06/10/1983 | 1 | LSU |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 33 | Greer, Jabari | CB | 5-11 | 169 | 02/11/1982 | 3 | Tennessee |
| 42 | Leonhard, Jim | S | 5-8 | 190 | 10/27/1982 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 24 | McGee, Terrence | CB | 5-9 | 195 | 10/14/1980 | 4 | Northwestern St. |
| 30 | Simpson, Ko | S | 6-1 | 201 | 11/09/1983 | 1 | South Carolina |
| 25 | Thomas, Kiwaukee | CB | 5-11 | 192 | 06/19/1977 | 7 | Georgia Southern |
| 20 | Whitner, Donté | S | 5-11 | 205 | 07/24/1985 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 27 | Wire, Coy | S | 6-0 | 205 | 11/07/1978 | 5 | Stanford |
| 26 | Youboty, Ashton | CB | 5-11 | 189 | 07/07/1984 | 1 | Ohio State |

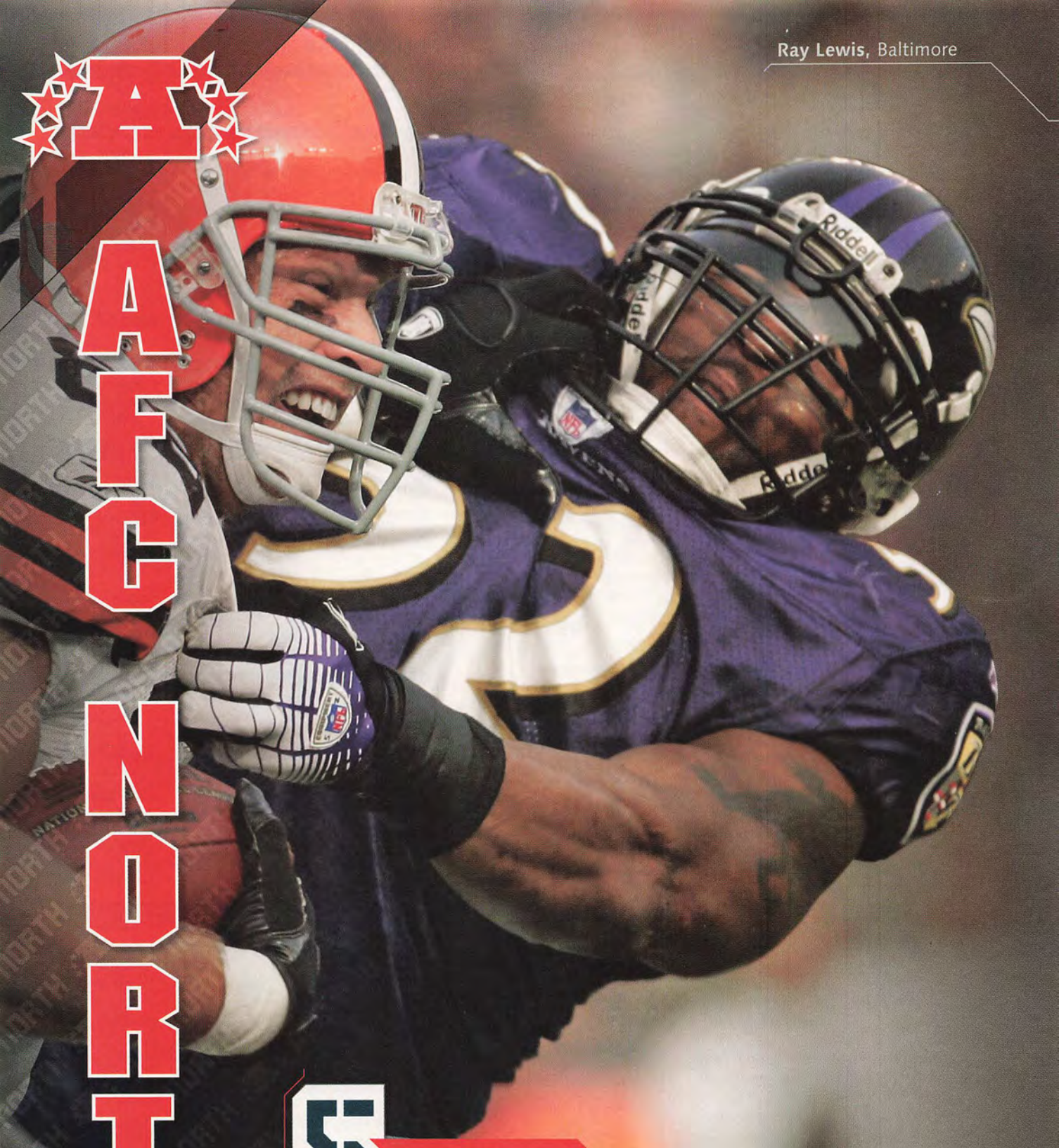
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 55 | Crowell, Angelo | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 08/16/1981 | 4 | Virginia |
| 52 | DiGiorgio, John | LB | 6-2 | 225 | 06/29/1983 | 1 | Saginaw Valley |
| 56 | Ellison, Keith | LB | 6-0 | 228 | 02/06/1984 | 1 | Oregon State |
| 53 | Haggan, Mario | LB | 6-3 | 248 | 03/03/1980 | 4 | Mississippi State |
| 58 | Manning, Roy | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 12/04/1981 | 2 | Michigan |
| 57 | Stamer, Josh | LB | 6-2 | 238 | 10/11/1977 | 4 | South Dakota |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Lindell, Rian | K | 6-3 | 235 | 01/20/1977 | 7 | Washington State |
| 8 | Moorman, Brian | P | 6-0 | 175 | 02/05/1976 | 6 | Pittsburg State |

**DICK JAURON,** HEAD COACH

**Steve Fairchild,** off. coord.; **Perry Fewell,** def. coord.; **Bobby April,** asst. head coach/special teams; **George Catavolos,** def. backs; **Charlie Coiner,** tight ends; **DeMontie Cross,** def./special teams asst.; **Bill Kollar,** def. line; **Sean Kugler,** asst. off. line; **Jim McNally,** off. line; **Turk Schonert,** quarterbacks; **Matt Sheldon,** linebackers; **Eric Studesville,** running backs; **Tyke Tolbert,** wide receivers

# AFC NORTH




## 5 THINGS TO WATCH

1. Mike Tomlin replaces Bill Cowher after 15 seasons on the Steelers sideline. Tomlin will be given latitude to instill his attitude on the team by the incredibly patient Rooney family. Early indications are he will open up the offense and stick, for the time being, with the 3-4 defense.

2. Quarterback Steve McNair might be at the end of his career, but he was an instant upgrade in Baltimore last season, though he didn't get there until June. Coach Brian Billick, heading into his first full season of calling plays, is looking forward to what he and McNair can do in their second year together.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

1 RAVENS | 72

2 BENGALS | 76

3 STEELERS | 80

4 BROWNS | 84

## Despite his departure, Cowher's still all the talk

By Mark Curnutte, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*

The specter of Bill Cowher hangs over the AFC North, even months after his resignation as Pittsburgh Steelers coach.

Mike Tomlin, another 34-year-old defensive coordinator from another team, like Cowher in 1992, takes over the program for the NFL's most stable organization. And, like Cowher, who had to carve an identity from the granite legacy of Chuck Noll, Tomlin faces constant comparisons to his predecessor.

A couple of hours' drive away, on the shores of Lake Erie, where Cowher started his coaching career with the Cleveland Browns, the rumor persists that the former lineman could return as the NFL's first $10 million-a-year coach/general manager. That is, if current Coach Romeo Crennel and General Manager Phil Savage's aggressive makeover of the Browns comes up short again.

After consecutive last-place finishes, the Browns spent big in free agency, adding left guard Eric Steinbach from the Bengals and then pairing him with No. 3 overall draft pick Joe Thomas at left tackle. Then the Browns traded up to get quarterback Brady Quinn of Notre Dame with the 22nd overall selection, dealing their first-round pick in 2008.

Crennel had better start by improving his team's performance in AFC North games. In two seasons, he is 1-11 against the division.

Cleveland wants to run the ball more effectively, regardless of whether it's Quinn or Charlie Frye playing quarterback, and the Browns think the addition of running back Jamal Lewis, Steinbach and Thomas should make a big difference.

And now, heading into their third year in Crennel's four-linebacker defense, the Browns have better personnel to play it with second-year 'backers Kamerion Wimbley and D'Qwell Jackson.

Pittsburgh has run the 3-4 defense better than any team in football for several seasons and, despite talk that Tomlin will transition to a 4-3, the Steelers drafted a perfect replacement for Joey Porter in the first round, bringing in former Florida State star Lawrence Timmons.

Still, the most immediate and noticeable change with the Steelers, given Cowher's resignation, won't be in the defense (even though Tomlin arrives as a defense-oriented coach). It will be on offense, where Bruce Arians takes over at offensive coordinator for the departed Ken Whisenhunt, who left to become head coach of the Arizona Cardinals.

Heading into his fourth season, quarterback Ben Roethlisberger will be counted on to identify pass coverages at the line of scrimmage—taking the responsibility that was his offensive linemen's.

With the added duty, though, comes opportunity for Roethlisberger. Arians plans to open things up with more three- and four-receiver sets on first down.

The run-first Steelers might be a thing of the past. Regardless of the run-pass ratio, the Steelers will have to cut down on their 37 turnovers, which were fourth worst in the NFL in 2006.

With Cowher's departure, Baltimore's Brian Billick becomes the division's senior coach. Heading into his ninth season with the Ravens, Billick has the AFC North's most complete team.

The Ravens will be tweaking a 13-3 team, not making major changes.

Billick is looking forward to what quarterback Steve McNair can do with an entire offseason to prepare. He was acquired in a trade from Tennessee last summer.

Despite the lack of preparation time, McNair was an instant difference-maker. He threw 15 touchdown passes in the 13 victories and just one in the three losses. Billick took over play-calling duties when the Ravens were 4-2 and struggling. They finished 9-1, with their only loss coming Nov. 30 at Cincinnati.

McNair should have a better rushing game in support. The Ravens released Lewis, who signed with the Browns, and traded for Buffalo's Willis McGahee.

The biggest challenges will be replacing starting right offensive tackle Tony Pashos and linebacker/end Adalius Thomas, both free-agent casualties.

Left tackle Jonathan Ogden will return for at least one more season, and Baltimore wisely spent two of its top three draft picks on offensive linemen. Auburn guard Ben Grubbs has the look of a long-term replacement at left guard for Edwin Mulitalo.

In Cincinnati, the honeymoon is over for Marvin Lewis, Billick's former defensive coordinator in Baltimore.

Lewis, despite overseeing the elevation of the franchise to respectability, has finished 8-8 in three of his four seasons. The Bengals lost their last three games of 2006 to finish at .500 and out of the playoffs. Only one victory would have put them in the postseason for a second year in a row and changed the entire perspective of the team.

A relatively inactive free-agency period this offseason, however, has some fans grumbling. Lewis is counting on added maturity from his team and the emergence of some inexperienced recent draft picks to add life to his 30th-ranked defense.

JAMES LANG / US PRESSWIRE

**3** The heat is on Browns Coach Romeo Crennel and GM Phil Savage. If they go down, they will go down swinging. No team had a more aggressive offseason in both free agency and the draft. Crennel has several new coaches on offense. The challenge will be to bring a lot of new pieces together quickly.

**4** Nobody questions the talent and production on offense in Cincinnati. The big problem with the Bengals is the 30th-ranked defense. The defense needs to pull its weight if the Bengals plan to break the .500 plateau and make the playoffs for a second time in five seasons under Coach Marvin Lewis.

**5** The AFC North played a game of running-back roulette in the offseason. Former Baltimore feature back Jamal Lewis ended up with the Browns, and the Ravens traded with Buffalo for Willis McGahee. This is the division where teams like to run the ball and force opponents to stop it.

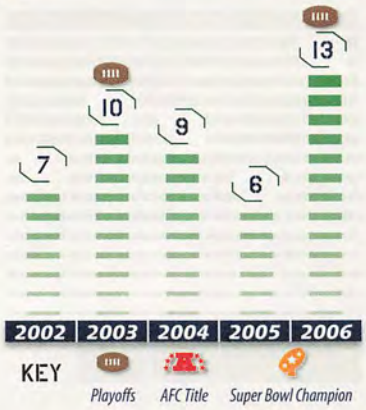
# BALTIMORE

# 1

**AFC NORTH**

**2006 Record: 13-3**
www.baltimoreravens.com
**M&T BANK STADIUM**
Capacity: 70,107 Turf: Artificial
Tickets: 410-261-RAVE

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND




## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Steve McNair |
| FB | Justin Green |
| RB | Willis McGahee |
| LT | Jonathan Ogden |
| LG | Jason Brown |
| C | Mike Flynn |
| RG | Keydrick Vincent |
| RT | Adam Terry |
| TE | Todd Heap |
| WR | Mark Clayton |
| WR | Derrick Mason |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Trevor Pryce |
| NT | Kelly Gregg |
| RE | Haloti Ngata |
| OLB | Terrell Suggs |
| ILB | Bart Scott |
| ILB | Ray Lewis |
| OLB | Jarret Johnson |
| LCB | Chris McAlister |
| RCB | Samari Rolle |
| SS | Dawan Landry |
| FS | Ed Reed |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Sam Koch |
| K | Matt Stover |
| PR | B.J. Sams |
| KR | B.J. Sams |

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 3 |
| Quarterbacks | 3 |
| Running Backs | 3 |
| Receivers | 4 |
| Defensive Line | 4 |
| Linebackers | 4 |
| Secondary | 5 |
| Special Teams | 4 |
| Management | 4 |

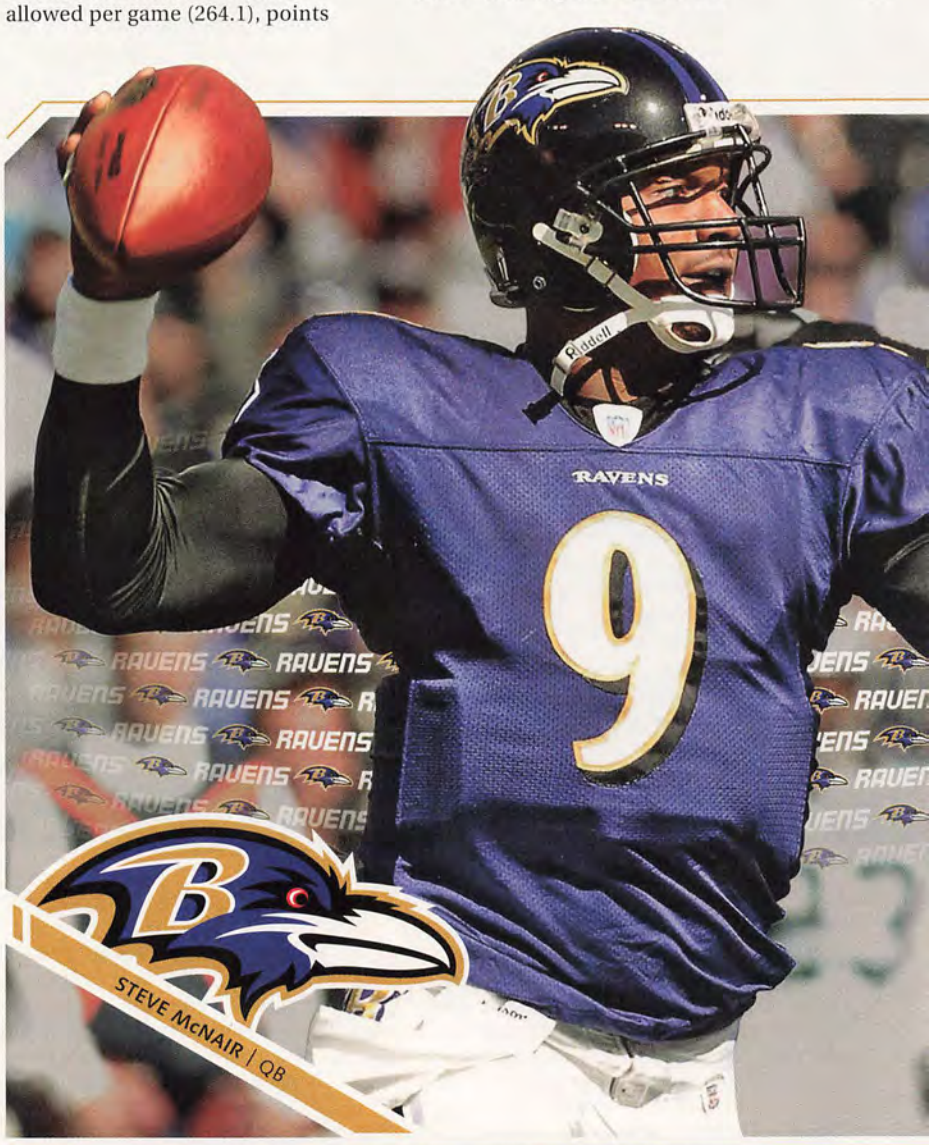
## Taking offense

If the Ravens are to be taken seriously in the postseason, they're going to have to bring something to the table besides their tremendous defense.

For a team coming off a 13-3 season in which it won its division by a whopping five-game margin, the Baltimore Ravens don't inspire a great deal of confidence or strike fear in their opponents.

It's not that NFL coaches and players don't respect the Baltimore defense. Six of the 11 defensive starters were voted to the Pro Bowl, and the unit was first in yards allowed per game (264.1), points allowed (201) and third-down-conversion rate (28.8 percent). The Ravens also ranked second overall with 60 sacks and 40 takeaways.

The offense, despite an overall improvement with Steve McNair in his first year as the Ravens' quarterback, is still the problem. Baltimore could manage just a pair of field goals in a 15-6 home playoff loss to Indianapolis. The Ravens




DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

The Ravens had their eyes on OT Joe Staley, but after the 49ers traded up just in front of them to acquire the athletic Central Michigan prospect, Baltimore selected the next-highest-rated offensive lineman in Auburn guard **Ben Grubbs**, who could start as a rookie. **Marshal Yanda** was added in the third round and shows the ability to start at offensive guard or tackle. Yanda could eventually start at right tackle, allowing Adam Terry to replace Jonathan Ogden on the left side. The Ravens added tremendous speed at wide receiver with the addition of **Yamon Figurs**, who is also an outstanding return man. **Antwan Barnes** is a great athlete, but will need time to learn how to work in space at linebacker. **Le'Ron McClain** is a tough blocking fullback who will help in replacing Ovie Mughelli. Heisman Trophy winner **Troy Smith** had to wait until the end of Round Five to hear his name called. However, Baltimore is a good fit for the former Buckeye, especially with the injury-prone Steve McNair entering his 14th season and Kyle Boller in the final year of his existing contract. It would not be a surprise to see Smith starting for the Ravens in seasons to come. Linebacker **Prescott Burgess** is an underrated prospect who could be more physical, but should earn a roster spot next fall.

**GRADE B-**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 29 | Grubbs, Ben | G | 6-3 | 314 | Auburn |
| 3 | 10 | Figurs, Yamon | WR | 5-11 | 173 | Kansas State |
| 3 | 23 | Yanda, Marshal | G | 6-4 | 305 | Iowa |
| 4 | 35 | Barnes, Antwan | LB | 6-1 | 234 | Florida International |
| 4 | 38 | McClain, Le'Ron | RB | 6-1 | 257 | Alabama |
| 5 | 37 | Smith, Troy | QB | 6-1 | 215 | Ohio State |
| 6 | 33 | Burgess, Prescott | LB | 6-3 | 235 | Michigan |

ranked ninth in points scored per game at 24.3, but 42 of those, or an average of almost three a game, were scored by the defense.

Baltimore enters this season as the solid favorite to repeat in the AFC North, but Year Two of the McNair Era finds the team forced to prove that 13-3 was not a fluke and that the offense can improve enough to get the team deep into the playoffs. McNair, acquired in a trade from Tennessee last June, did not benefit from a minicamp or the Ravens' offseason-conditioning program in 2006. He ended up throwing for more than 3,000 yards and 16 touchdowns, and got better as the season progressed.

In fact, when Coach Brian Billick took over play-calling responsibilities in Week Six, McNair's numbers improved dramatically. He had 11 touchdowns and just five interceptions in the final 10 games, while his passer rating jumped to 92.9 in the last 10 contests compared with 64.1 in the first six. And McNair's performance was a barometer of the team's success. In the 13 victories, McNair threw 15 of his touchdown passes. In the three losses, he had just one.

Although he turned 34 in February, McNair will be back with an offseason and minicamp under his belt. Both Billick and McNair think the added familiarity with the system will only help, though there are concerns about how long the window of opportunity will remain open.

"We had no offseason," Billick says about McNair's arrival last season. "We had a training camp where he had to do a lot more than what a veteran quarterback of his stature normally had to do because he had to learn the offense. He came into the season probably a little more fatigued and not as confident in the system around him. This is his system now."

With the improvement, Billick will again call the offensive plays, this time for the entire season.

"The positive for me is I enjoy doing it, and it brings me closer to the players," he says. "The negative is that you all [media] will now have about 1,200 calls in a given year to shove up my ass anytime any one of them doesn't work."

## THE BOOK ON ... *Willis McGahee* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"He is a great addition for the Ravens offense. He has that combination of speed and power. He is not a little guy, so he'll be able to run inside. But he gives them an outside threat they didn't have with Jamal Lewis.

"McGahee will add a dimension to their offense that they never really had with Jamal Lewis, especially since Jamal was banged up the past couple of years. Mike Anderson is still a strong, powerful runner as the backup. But McGahee adds another headache for teams that have to play Baltimore twice a year."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** @ *Cincinnati*
SEPT. 10 | 7:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 2** vs. *New York Jets*
SEPT. 16 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 3** vs. *Arizona*
SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 4** @ *Cleveland*
SEPT. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 5** @ *San Francisco*
OCT. 7 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 6** vs. *St. Louis*
OCT. 14 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 7** @ *Buffalo*
OCT. 21 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 8** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 9** @ *Pittsburgh*
NOV. 5 | 8:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 10** vs. *Cincinnati*
NOV. 11 | 4:05
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 11** vs. *Cleveland*
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 12** @ *San Diego*
NOV. 25 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 13** vs. *New England*
DEC. 3 | 8:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 14** vs. *Indianapolis*
DEC. 9 | 8:15
**MUST-SEE GAME**
*The Ravens get a home rematch against the team that knocked them out of the playoffs last year. It comes, though, after a Monday night home contest against New England and a trip to San Diego.*
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 15** @ *Miami*
DEC. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 16** @ *Seattle*
DEC. 23 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 17** vs. *Pittsburgh*
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 27-0 | at Tampa Bay |
| 09/17 | W | 28-6 | Oakland |
| 09/24 | W | 15-14 | at Cleveland |
| 10/01 | W | 16-13 | San Diego |
| 10/09 | L | 3-13 | at Denver |
| 10/15 | L | 21-23 | Carolina |
| 10/29 | W | 35-22 | at New Orleans |
| 11/05 | W | 26-20 | Cincinnati |
| 11/12 | W | 27-26 | at Tennessee |
| 11/19 | W | 24-10 | Atlanta |
| 11/26 | W | 27-0 | Pittsburgh |
| 11/30 | L | 7-13 | at Cincinnati |
| 12/10 | W | 20-10 | at Kansas City |
| 12/17 | W | 27-17 | Cleveland |
| 12/24 | W | 31-7 | at Pittsburgh |
| 12/31 | W | 19-7 | Buffalo |

WON 13, LOST 3

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J. Lewis | 314 | 1132 | 3.6 | 52 | 9 |
| Anderson | 39 | 183 | 4.7 | 34t | 1 |
| Mu. Smith | 36 | 153 | 4.3 | 30 | 0 |
| McNair | 45 | 119 | 2.6 | 19 | 1 |
| Mughelli | 12 | 50 | 4.2 | 12 | 0 |
| Boller | 22 | 34 | 1.5 | 10 | 0 |
| Mason | 1 | -4 | -4.0 | -4 | 0 |
| Clayton | 7 | -30 | -4.3 | 3 | 0 |
| **Ravens** | 476 | 1637 | 3.4 | 52 | 11 |
| **Opponents** | 367 | 1214 | 3.3 | 47 | 5 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Heap | 73 | 765 | 10.5 | 30 | 6 |
| Mason | 68 | 750 | 11.0 | 38 | 2 |
| Clayton | 67 | 939 | 14.0 | 87t | 5 |
| Williams | 22 | 396 | 18.0 | 77t | 2 |
| Mu. Smith | 22 | 135 | 6.1 | 30 | 0 |
| Mughelli | 21 | 182 | 8.7 | 30t | 2 |
| Wilcox | 20 | 166 | 8.3 | 35 | 3 |
| J. Lewis | 18 | 115 | 6.4 | 15 | 0 |
| Anderson | 9 | 54 | 6.0 | 13 | 0 |
| Green | 4 | 17 | 4.3 | 12 | 0 |
| Sypniewski | 2 | 15 | 7.5 | 9 | 0 |
| Moore | 2 | 1 | 0.5 | 4t | 1 |
| **Ravens** | 328 | 3535 | 10.8 | 87t | 21 |
| **Opponents** | 279 | 3429 | 12.3 | 72t | 16 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| McNair | 468 | 295 | 3050 | 16 | 12 |
| Boller | 55 | 33 | 485 | 5 | 2 |
| Clayton | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Ravens** | 524 | 328 | 3535 | 21 | 14 |
| **Opponents** | 509 | 279 | 3429 | 16 | 28 |

**SACKS**

Pryce 13, Thomas 11, Scott 9.5, Suggs 9.5, R. Lewis 5, Gregg 3.5, Landry 3, Ivy 2, J. Johnson 1.5, Ngata 1, Rolle 1

RAVENS 60, OPPONENTS 17

Billick made a key offseason move when he stopped in Las Vegas to have lunch with left offensive tackle Jonathan Ogden, who had been thinking about retiring because of a painful toe injury. Billick continued on to the league meeting in Phoenix confident that Ogden would be back for at least one more season.

The offensive line will look different in 2007. Right tackle Tony Pashos left via free agency and will be likely replaced by understudy Adam Terry. Left guard Edwin Mulitalo is gone, too, and Jason Brown could fill that position. Baltimore, as expected, spent its first-round draft pick on an offensive lineman, Auburn guard Ben Grubbs, a would-be clone of Mulitalo. The Ravens also added depth to their offensive line with a high-value third-round pick of Iowa tackle Marshal Yanda.

No NFL team drafts consistently as well as the Ravens, and though some of their middle-round picks were not household names heading into draft weekend, there is a clear plan and a clear type of player brought into the system.

Besides the new bodies in front of him, McNair will have a pair of new backfield mates. The Ravens waived featured running back Jamal Lewis, who later signed a one-year contract with division rival Cleveland. Baltimore then traded three draft picks, including third-rounders in 2007 and 2008, to Buffalo for Willis McGahee.

McGahee figures to give the Ravens the same tough inside running that Lewis did, but also is expected to provide more speed to get outside. McGahee, who's regarded as a significantly better receiver than Lewis, ran for 990 yards with the Bills last season and caught 18 passes. Billick should have more flexibility in the backfield with McGahee, who can work as a single back, untying the Ravens from the I-formation exclusively.

"One of the things that drew us to Willis McGahee was the versatility that he represents in both stretch runs and running downhill and catching out of the backfield," Billick says.

McGahee rushed for 3,365 yards and 24 touchdowns in three seasons at Buffalo. Justin Green will come off the injured reserve list to replace Ovie Mughelli at fullback.

The Ravens return the best trio of pass receivers in franchise history. Tight end Todd Heap is back after catching 73 passes and six touchdowns last year. Derrick Mason had 68 catches, though just two for scores, and

### DID YOU KNOW

Baltimore has scored 20 defensive touchdowns over the last four seasons, while no other NFL team has scored more than 16.

Last year the Ravens led the NFL with 28 interceptions, returning a league-high five for touchdowns.

Baltimore's defense ranked first in the league in yards allowed a game at 264.1 and accepted a league-low 79 penalties by its opponents.

### RAVENS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Derrick Mason** (2005-present)
*In just two seasons at Baltimore, he has 154 receptions.*

2. **Qadry Ismail** (1999-2001)
*"The Missile" put up 191 receptions, 18 touchdowns and more than 2,800 yards in his time with the Ravens.*

3. **Michael Jackson** (1996-98)
*Go-to guy for Vinny Testaverde with 183 receptions.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**JARRET JOHNSON**
outside linebacker

Outside linebacker Jarret Johnson, a four-year veteran, will have the chance to replace Adalius Thomas, who left for New England in free agency. Johnson, who has a non-stop motor, will have to prove he can make plays.

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Ravens)*

"I see a team that won 13 games last year, but they never scared me offensively, even with [Steve] McNair. He managed the game better. He made some plays when things broke down. He is an improvement over [Kyle] Boller.

"The key to the Ravens is still their defense. They won 13 games, and I kind of scratched my head, 'How did they do that?' They play great defense and force a lot of mistakes. The defense puts them in the position to win a lot of games. Then they get a lot of production in the kicking game."

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 317.0 | 17 | Total Defense | 264.1 | 1 |
| Rushing | 102.3 | 25 | Against Rush | 75.9 | 2 |
| Passing | 214.7 | 11 | Against Pass | 188.2 | 6 |
| Scoring | 353 | 12t | Points Allowed | 201 | 1 |
| Punt Returns | 7.8 | 25t | Interceptions | 28 | 1 |
| Kick Returns | 23.2 | 10 | Sacks | 60 | 2 |
| Red Zone TD % | 42.3 | 28 | Turnover Diff. | +17 | 1 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 282 | 86 | 179 | 17 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 52 | 213 | 22 | 20 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 21 | 0 | 6 |

is the most complete wide receiver to wear a Ravens uniform. Mark Clayton added 939 yards and five touchdowns.

The defense, again coordinated by Rex Ryan, loses only one starter from its top-ranked unit, but the loss could be a big one. Outside linebacker Adalius Thomas signed as an unrestricted free agent with New England, taking with him last year's totals of 11 sacks, 106 total tackles, one interception and nine passes broken up.

High-motor Jarret Johnson will step into the vacated spot at right outside linebacker. At 6-3 and 270 pounds, Johnson is headed into his fifth NFL season. He'll be counted on to provide some (but not all) of the big plays Thomas produced.

Up front, end Trevor Pryce is back with his team-high 13 sacks from 2006. The other end, Haloti Ngata, will be a second-year pro after a strong rookie season.

Linebackers Terrell Suggs and Bart Scott each had 9.5 sacks. Safeties Ed Reed and Dawan Landry both had five interceptions in 2006, while cornerback Chris McAlister's six (two for touchdowns) led the team.

The Ravens are strong on the line, at linebacker and in the secondary. The defense has no weakness. But Ryan, like former Ravens defensive coordinators before him in Mike Nolan (49ers) and Marvin Lewis (Bengals), isn't too far out of a head-coaching position. The Ravens thought they would lose Ryan to the Chargers after Marty Schottenheimer was fired in February. The feeling in the Baltimore front office is Ryan could be gone after this year, and if not, then following the 2008 season for sure.

But the defense is not the concern, and never has been. It's the offense. More than likely, Baltimore will be back in the playoffs in 2007. How far the Ravens go will hinge on Billick's play-calling and McNair's continued attempt to defy age and physiology.

### FINAL GRADE

**91**

STOCK REPORT: UP

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITION

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Willis McGahee**, RB (trade, BUF)

*Shortly after releasing Jamal Lewis, the Ravens traded third- and seventh-round picks in 2007 and their third-rounder in 2008 to get running back Willis McGahee from the Bills.*

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Aubrayo Franklin, DT (SF)
- Jamal Lewis, RB (CLE)
- Tony Pashos, OT (JAC)
- Adalius Thomas, LB (NE)
- Ovie Mughelli, FB (ATL)
- Edwin Mulitalo, OG (DET)

> "You always have something to prove when you go to a new team, just to show your teammates, coaches and organization that you can play and you belong here. So, that's my main thing, just showing that I want to be here, and I'm ready to do whatever."
>
> *—Offseason trade acquisition Willis McGahee*

## THE COUNT

**5.5**

The average rushing yards free-agent signee Willis McGahee gains on runs to the left while averaging 3.7 yards a carry every other direction.

**66.7**

Quarterback Steve McNair's career playoff passer rating compared with his 83.2 career rating in the regular season.

**42**

Regular-season home wins by Baltimore since 2000, a league high.

## RAVENS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Boller, Kyle | QB | 6-3 | 220 | 06/17/1981 | 4 | California |
| 9 | McNair, Steve | QB | 6-2 | 230 | 02/14/1973 | 12 | Alcorn State |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 60 | Brown, Jason | G | 6-3 | 320 | 05/05/1983 | 2 | North Carolina |
| 65 | Chester, Chris | G | 6-3 | 305 | 01/12/1983 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 62 | Flynn, Mike | C | 6-3 | 305 | 06/15/1974 | 9 | Maine |
| 70 | Katula, Matt | C | 6-6 | 272 | 08/22/1982 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 74 | Kracalik, Michael | T | 6-8 | 337 | 09/09/1982 | 1 | San Diego State |
| 63 | Ndukwe, Ikechuku | G | 6-4 | 320 | 07/17/1982 | 1 | Northwestern |
| 75 | Ogden, Jonathan | T | 6-9 | 345 | 07/31/1974 | 11 | UCLA |
| 69 | Rimpf, Brian | G | 6-5 | 319 | 02/11/1981 | 2 | East Carolina |
| 78 | Terry, Adam | T | 6-8 | 330 | 09/01/1982 | 2 | Syracuse |
| 68 | Vincent, Keydrick | G | 6-5 | 325 | 04/13/1978 | 6 | Mississippi |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38 | Anderson, Mike | RB | 6-0 | 230 | 09/21/1973 | 6 | Utah |
| 30 | Daniels, P.J. | RB | 5-10 | 214 | 12/21/1982 | 0 | Georgia Tech |
| 33 | Green, Justin | RB | 5-11 | 251 | 04/30/1982 | 2 | Montana |
| 23 | McGahee, Willis | RB | 6-0 | 228 | 10/20/1981 | 3 | Miami (FL) |
| 34 | Ross, Cory | RB | 5-6 | 201 | 09/22/1982 | 1 | Nebraska |
| 32 | Smith, Musa | RB | 6-0 | 232 | 05/31/1982 | 4 | Georgia |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 89 | Clayton, Mark | WR | 5-10 | 195 | 07/02/1982 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 81 | Darling, Devard | WR | 6-1 | 215 | 04/16/1982 | 3 | Washington State |
| 86 | Heap, Todd | TE | 6-5 | 252 | 03/16/1980 | 6 | Arizona State |
| 85 | Mason, Derrick | WR | 5-10 | 192 | 01/17/1974 | 10 | Michigan State |
| 84 | Moore, Clarence | WR | 6-6 | 220 | 09/24/1982 | 3 | Northern Arizona |
| 88 | Sypniewski, Quinn | TE | 6-6 | 270 | 04/14/1982 | 1 | Colorado |
| 83 | Wilcox, Daniel | TE | 6-1 | 245 | 03/23/1977 | 5 | Appalachian State |
| 87 | Williams, Demetrius | WR | 6-2 | 197 | 03/28/1983 | 1 | Oregon |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 94 | Bannan, Justin | DT | 6-3 | 310 | 04/18/1979 | 5 | Colorado |
| 93 | Edwards, Dwan | DT | 6-3 | 315 | 05/16/1981 | 3 | Oregon State |
| 98 | Ellison, Atiyyah | DT | 6-3 | 318 | 09/29/1981 | 0 | Missouri |
| 97 | Gregg, Kelly | DT | 6-0 | 310 | 11/01/1976 | 7 | Oklahoma |
| 95 | Johnson, Jarret | DE | 6-3 | 270 | 08/14/1981 | 4 | Alabama |
| 71 | King, Kenny | DT | 6-4 | 284 | 04/23/1981 | 1 | Alabama |
| 92 | Ngata, Haloti | DT | 6-4 | 340 | 01/21/1984 | 1 | Oregon |
| 90 | Pryce, Trevor | DE | 6-5 | 286 | 08/03/1975 | 10 | Clemson |
| 55 | Suggs, Terrell | DE | 6-3 | 260 | 10/11/1982 | 4 | Arizona State |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | Ivy, Corey | CB | 5-9 | 188 | 03/29/1977 | 6 | Oklahoma |
| 26 | Landry, Dawan | S | 6-0 | 220 | 12/30/1982 | 1 | Georgia Tech |
| 29 | Martin, Derrick | CB | 5-10 | 202 | 05/16/1985 | 1 | Wyoming |
| 21 | McAlister, Chris | CB | 6-1 | 206 | 06/14/1977 | 8 | Arizona |
| 25 | Oglesby, Evan | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 12/18/1981 | 2 | North Alabama |
| 24 | Pittman, David | CB | 5-11 | 182 | 10/14/1983 | 0 | Northwestern St. |
| 27 | Prude, Ronnie | CB | 5-11 | 178 | 06/04/1982 | 1 | LSU |
| 20 | Reed, Ed | S | 5-11 | 200 | 09/11/1978 | 5 | Miami (FL) |
| 22 | Rolle, Samari | CB | 6-0 | 175 | 08/10/1976 | 9 | Florida State |
| 36 | Sams, B.J. | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 10/29/1980 | 3 | McNeese State |
| 42 | Sapp, Gerome | S | 6-1 | 216 | 02/08/1981 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 28 | Winborne, Jamaine | CB | 5-10 | 202 | 12/26/1980 | 1 | Virginia |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 53 | Cody, Dan | LB | 6-5 | 255 | 12/01/1981 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 58 | Haley, Dennis | LB | 6-1 | 247 | 02/18/1982 | 2 | Virginia |
| 95 | Johnson, Jarret | LB | 6-3 | 270 | 08/14/1981 | 5 | Alabama |
| 52 | Lewis, Ray | LB | 6-1 | 250 | 05/15/1975 | 11 | Miami (FL) |
| 57 | Scott, Bart | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 08/18/1980 | 5 | Southern Illinois |
| 51 | Smith, Mike | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 09/02/1981 | 2 | Texas Tech |
| 56 | Stills, Gary | LB | 6-2 | 250 | 07/11/1974 | 8 | West Virginia |
| 55 | Suggs, Terrell | LB | 6-3 | 260 | 10/11/1982 | 5 | Arizona State |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Koch, Sam | P | 6-1 | 230 | 08/13/1982 | 1 | Nebraska |
| 3 | Stover, Matt | K | 5-11 | 178 | 01/27/1968 | 16 | Louisiana Tech |

**BRIAN BILLICK**, HEAD COACH

**Rick Neuheisel**, off. coord.; **Rex Ryan**, def. coord.; **Frank Gansz Jr.**, special teams coord.; **Clarence Brooks**, def. line; **Mark Carrier**, secondary; **John Fassel**, asst. special teams; **Jedd Fisch**, asst. wide receivers/quarterbacks; **Jeff FitzGerald**, linebackers; **Chris Foerster**, off. line/asst. head coach; **Wade Harman**, tight ends/asst. off. line; **Mike Johnson**, wide receivers; **Tony Nathan**, running backs; **Mike Pettine**, outside linebackers; **Greg Roman**, asst. off. line; **Dennis Thurman**, secondary

# CINCINNATI

# 2

**AFC NORTH**

2006 Record: 8-8
www.bengals.com
PAUL BROWN STADIUM
Capacity: 65,535 Turf: Artificial
Tickets: 866-621-8383

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Carson Palmer |
| FB | Jeremi Johnson |
| RB | Rudi Johnson |
| LT | Levi Jones |
| LG | Andrew Whitworth |
| C | Eric Ghiaciuc |
| RG | Bobbie Williams |
| RT | Willie Anderson |
| TE | Reggie Kelly |
| WR | Chad Johnson |
| WR | T.J. Houshmandzadeh |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Robert Geathers |
| LT | John Thornton |
| RT | Sam Adams |
| RE | Justin Smith |
| LLB | Rashad Jeanty |
| MLB | Ahmad Brooks |
| RLB | Landon Johnson |
| LCB | Johnathan Joseph |
| RCB | Deltha O'Neal |
| SS | Dexter Jackson |
| FS | Madieu Williams |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Kyle Larson |
| K | Shayne Graham |
| PR | Antonio Chatman |
| KR | Tab Perry |

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 4 |
| Quarterbacks | 5 |
| Running Backs | 4 |
| Receivers | 5 |
| Defensive Line | 3 |
| Linebackers | 2 |
| Secondary | 3 |
| Special Teams | 4 |
| Management | 3 |

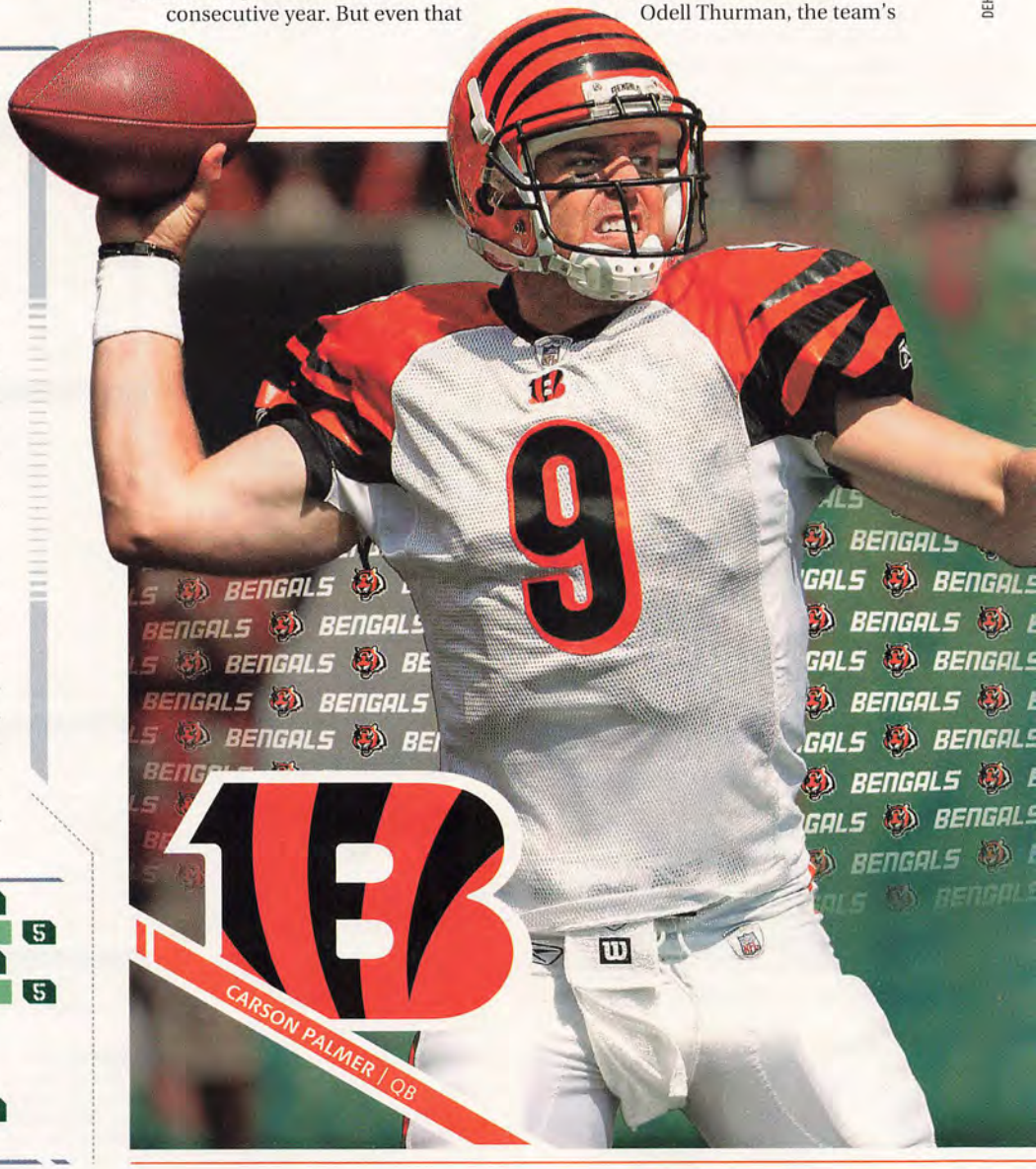
## Looking for a few good men

Coming off a season in which the number of players arrested was higher than the total wins, the Bengals are vowing to get their character in line with their talent.

Tennessee cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones might be the NFL's biggest bad boy. But, in the era of the character crackdown, the Cincinnati Bengals are the league's most notorious team.

The Bengals missed the playoffs in 2006, losing their last three games when just one victory would have put them in the postseason for a second consecutive year. But even that December collapse was overshadowed by nine player arrests during the 2006 calendar year.

The series of off-field transgressions was capped by the eight-game suspension in April of wide receiver Chris Henry, who was arrested four times in a seven-month span from December 2005 to June 2006. At the same time, former starting middle linebacker Odell Thurman, the team's




DEHOOG / TOM DIPACE PHOTOGRAPHY

## THE BOOK ON ... *Johnathan Joseph* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"He is a guy with a lot of natural football talent—aside from the fact he didn't catch the ball. He got his hands on a lot of possible interceptions, but dropped them all.

"Joseph can tackle. He can run. He has vertical speed and quickness. He was a very young player coming out of college, but he played like a veteran in the opener [at Kansas City]. He made some rookie mistakes, but overall he had a nice season. He will be counted on to start for them this season because they let Tory James go [in free agency]."

leading tackler as a rookie in 2005, was still under a one-year league suspension for a third violation of the NFL's substance-abuse policy and not eligible to apply for reinstatement until June.

Despite losing their second- (Thurman) and third-round (Henry) picks from the 2005 draft, the Bengals remain a talented team whose return to the postseason in 2007 would be no surprise. The schedule, which features two Monday night games and four prime-time matchups in all, does not look as daunting as the 2006 slate.

Cincinnati will be largely unaffected by Henry's suspension and the spate of off-field problems. The 2007 Bengals, like the 2006 team, will go as far as their underachieving defense can take them. Cincinnati finished 30th in total yards allowed and was tied for last in pass defense.

The team's first-round pick from the 2005 draft, linebacker/end David Pollack, is unlikely to play in 2007, and might not compete in the NFL again, after sustaining a fractured vertebra in the second game of 2006.

With Thurman and Pollack missing from the picture in 2007, and nine-year veteran starting linebacker Brian Simmons being released in February to ease a salary-cap crunch, the Bengals will have a different look on defense. Three new starters figure to command jobs.

Ahmad Brooks will probably be the starting middle linebacker, where he is expected to withstand a challenge from fourth-year player Caleb Miller.

The 259-pound Brooks, a former University of Virginia star, was selected in the third round of last July's supplemental draft. He signed quickly and was in training camp less than two weeks later. Despite character questions surrounding past marijuana use, Brooks proved to be a model citizen and willing student as a rookie, and returned to the offseason program by April in shape from personal workouts and a changed diet. As a rookie, Brooks started five games, recording a sack and 46 tackles.

The other new defensive starters figure to be former Canadian Football League star Rashad Jeanty at strongside linebacker and second-year cornerback Johnathan Joseph, the team's first-round pick in 2006.

Jeanty, who made nine starts in 12 games last season after Pollack went down, had 57 tackles,

HEADSHOT: DAN BEINEKE / WIRE IMAGE.COM

### BENGALS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Isaac Curtis** (1973-84)
   *Had 416 career receptions for a 17.1-yard average.*
2. **Chad Johnson** (2001-present)
   *Has already compiled 6,925 receiving yards, a team record.*
3. **Carl Pickens** (1992-99)
   *Posted franchise bests of 530 receptions and 63 touchdowns.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**AHMAD BROOKS**
middle linebacker

One of several Bengals with a checkered past, Brooks appears to have learned from his mistakes. He is poised to start at middle linebacker, where his 259-pound frame and speed should help the run defense.

### DID YOU KNOW

Carson Palmer finished the 2006 season with a 93.9 passer rating, becoming the first Bengal quarterback to post back-to-back years with a rating of 90.0 or better since Boomer Esiason in 1988-89.

Cincinnati's offense was tied for second in the NFL in first-down efficiency, gaining four yards or more 50 percent of the time. However, the Bengals ranked just 22nd in the league in third-down efficiency (35.8 percent).

Wide receiver Chad Johnson became the first player since the AFL-NFL merger to lead a conference in receiving yards for four straight seasons, gaining an NFL-best 1,369 yards in 2006.

### THE COUNT

| 10.5 | 5.6 | 112 |
|---|---|---|
| Number of sacks recorded by defensive end Robert Geathers last year, the highest by a Bengal player since 1992. | Punt-return yards allowed per game by Cincinnati, the lowest mark in the NFL. | Consecutive starts by offensive tackle Willie Anderson, the longest current streak on the team. |

## 2007 SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 | vs. *Baltimore* | SEPT. 10 | 7:00 |
| WEEK 2 | @ *Cleveland* | SEPT. 16 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 3 | @ *Seattle* | SEPT. 23 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 4 | vs. *New England* | OCT. 1 | 8:30 |
| WEEK 5 | *OPEN DATE* | | |
| WEEK 6 | @ *Kansas City* | OCT. 14 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 7 | vs. *New York Jets* | OCT. 21 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 8 | vs. *Pittsburgh* | OCT. 28 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 9 | @ *Buffalo* | NOV. 4 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 10 | @ *Baltimore* | NOV. 11 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 11 | vs. *Arizona* | NOV. 18 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 12 | vs. *Tennessee* | NOV. 25 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 13 | @ *Pittsburgh* | DEC. 2 | 8:15 |
| WEEK 14 | vs. *St. Louis* | DEC. 9 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 15 | @ *San Francisco* | DEC. 15 | 8:15 |
| WEEK 16 | vs. *Cleveland* | DEC. 23 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 17 | @ *Miami* | DEC. 30 | 1:00 |

W SCORE ▼ L

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*This is scheduled to be the prime-time national game on NBC and Cincinnati could be in a position to take control of a playoff berth. The Bengals have won in Pittsburgh three of the past four years.*

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 23-10 | at Kansas City |
| 09/17 | W | 34-17 | Cleveland |
| 09/24 | W | 28-20 | at Pittsburgh |
| 10/01 | L | 13-38 | New England |
| 10/15 | L | 13-14 | at Tampa Bay |
| 10/22 | W | 17-14 | Carolina |
| 10/29 | L | 27-29 | Atlanta |
| 11/05 | L | 20-26 | at Baltimore |
| 11/12 | L | 41-49 | San Diego |
| 11/19 | W | 31-16 | at New Orleans |
| 11/26 | W | 30-0 | at Cleveland |
| 11/30 | W | 13-7 | Baltimore |
| 12/10 | W | 27-10 | Oakland |
| 12/18 | L | 16-34 | at Indianapolis |
| 12/24 | L | 23-24 | at Denver |
| 12/31 | L | 17-23 | Pittsburgh |

**WON 8, LOST 8**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R. Johnson | 341 | 1309 | 3.8 | 22t | 12 |
| Watson | 25 | 138 | 5.5 | 18 | 1 |
| C. Perry | 10 | 57 | 5.7 | 18 | 0 |
| J. Johnson | 15 | 56 | 3.7 | 15 | 1 |
| Palmer | 26 | 37 | 1.4 | 11 | 0 |
| C. Johnson | 6 | 24 | 4.0 | 8 | 0 |
| McNeal | 1 | 8 | 8.0 | 8 | 0 |
| Houshmandzadeh | 3 | 6 | 2.0 | 13 | 0 |
| T. Perry | 2 | 4 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Wilson | 2 | 2 | 1.0 | 5 | 0 |
| Wright | 4 | -12 | -3.0 | -1 | 0 |
| **Bengals** | 435 | 1629 | 3.7 | 22t | 14 |
| **Opponents** | 448 | 1863 | 4.2 | 41 | 15 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Houshmandzadeh | 90 | 1081 | 12.0 | 40t | 9 |
| C. Johnson | 87 | 1369 | 15.7 | 74t | 7 |
| Henry | 36 | 605 | 16.8 | 71 | 9 |
| Watson | 23 | 213 | 9.3 | 46 | 0 |
| R. Johnson | 23 | 124 | 5.4 | 18 | 0 |
| Kelly | 21 | 254 | 12.1 | 32 | 1 |
| Stewart | 14 | 120 | 8.6 | 26 | 1 |
| Washington | 9 | 115 | 12.8 | 22t | 1 |
| C. Perry | 9 | 42 | 4.7 | 12 | 0 |
| J. Johnson | 6 | 37 | 6.2 | 17 | 0 |
| T. Perry | 5 | 81 | 16.2 | 30 | 0 |
| Chatman | 3 | 22 | 7.3 | 10 | 0 |
| Holt | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| **Bengals** | 327 | 4066 | 12.4 | 74t | 28 |
| **Opponents** | 349 | 4029 | 11.5 | 75 | 24 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Palmer | 520 | 324 | 4035 | 28 | 13 |
| Wright | 3 | 3 | 31 | 0 | 0 |
| **Bengals** | 523 | 327 | 4066 | 28 | 13 |
| **Opponents** | 555 | 349 | 4029 | 24 | 19 |

**SACKS**

Geathers 10.5, J. Smith 7.5, Kaesviharn 4, Robinson 3, Peko 2.5, Adams 2, Thornton 2, A. Brooks 1, Jackson 1, Miller 1, L. Johnson 0.5

**BENGALS 35, OPPONENTS 36**

## DRAFT REPORT

The Bengals had to be happy that the top-rated cornerback on most draft boards, **Leon Hall**, was still available at No. 18 overall. With the injury status of Chris Perry still uncertain, RB **Kenny Irons** was added to provide depth behind Rudi Johnson. **Marvin White** is an athletic safety who could replace free-agent loss Kevin Kaesviharn (Saints). **Jeff Rowe** was one of the better second-day quarterback prospects and should spend his rookie season at third string. While defensive tackle was a position of urgent need entering the draft, Cincinnati waited until Day Two to select **Matt Toeaina**. Two Notre Dame starters, guard **Dan Santucci** and strong safety **Chinedum Ndukwe**, were added in the final round. Failing to upgrade their defensive line and linebacker units lowers the final grade significantly. Outside of Hall, there is little to be excited about here.

LEON HALL

**GRADE C-**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 18 | Hall, Leon | CB | 5-11 | 193 | Michigan |
| 2 | 17 | Irons, Kenny | RB | 5-11 | 203 | Auburn |
| 4 | 15 | White, Marvin | S | 6-2 | 191 | TCU |
| 5 | 14 | Rowe, Jeff | QB | 6-5 | 225 | Nevada |
| 6 | 13 | Toeaina, Matt | DT | 6-3 | 301 | Oregon |
| 7 | 20 | Santucci, Dan | G | 6-4 | 296 | Notre Dame |
| 7 | 43 | Ndukwe, Chinedum | S | 6-2 | 219 | Notre Dame |

broke up four passes and was solid against the run as an NFL rookie. Expectations are that he'll continue to improve this year.

Joseph contributed as a rookie, leading the defense with 19 passes knocked down. By Secondary Coach Kevin Coyle's count, however, he dropped 10 would-be interceptions. He worked through the offseason on his hands. Joseph, who was sixth on the team with 67 tackles, replaces aging veteran Tory James, whom the Bengals made attempts to re-sign as an unrestricted free agent. The Bengals were thrilled that Michigan cornerback Leon Hall was available at No. 18 overall in the draft. Hall comes to Cincinnati as an NFL-ready defender with top-shelf character.

Besides Brooks, though, the most pressure on defense could be squarely on the shoulders of cornerback Deltha O'Neal. Tied for the NFL lead with 10 interceptions in 2005, O'Neal faded badly last year, starting only seven games because of knee and shoulder injuries and a DUI arrest in December.

Coach Marvin Lewis is counting on the added maturity of his team and the emergence of some inexperienced draft picks on defense like Brooks, linebacker A.J. Nicholson (fifth round, 2006) and end Frostee Rucker (third round, 2006).

"You have to take the right steps," Lewis says when asked about his team's evolution. "You've got to finish the game. They don't like the way it finished last year."

Defensively, the Bengals will concentrate on two statistical areas. After leading the NFL with 44 takeaways in their 11-5 season of 2005, Cincinnati had a respectable 31 takeaways in 2006. But this is a defense that bends and, without the takeaways, it breaks, having allowed 20.7 points a game last year (17th in the NFL).

The other area that needs improvement is third down, where the Bengals

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Bengals)*

"The Bengals need to gain a level of consistency on both sides of the ball. The defense is where they need to improve if they want to win close games down the stretch. [Cornerback] Deltha O'Neal has to bounce back from a sub-par season.

"This team will go as far as its defense will carry it. The offense does need to play more consistently, but the defense let them down last year. They have to get takeaways, they have to play better in the red zone and, most of all, they have to get off the field on third down."

KEVIN TERRELL / WIRE IMAGE.COM

allowed opponents to convert 41.7 percent of their opportunities last season, good for 22nd in the league.

In keeping with the philosophy of rewarding their own draft picks and re-signing them to long-term deals, the Bengals extended the contract of defensive end Robert Geathers. His 10.5 sacks were the first double-digit total for a Cincinnati defender since Alfred Williams in 1992, and the Bengals rewarded Geathers with a six-year, $33.7 million extension.

The team also spent big on fellow starting defensive end Justin Smith, using its franchise tag on the unrestricted free agent and guaranteeing him a 2007 salary of $8.64 million. The Bengals are trying to ease Smith's cap number by negotiating a long-term deal with their first-round pick from 2001 (No. 4 overall).

Offensively, the Bengals return 10 of 11 starters, with the exception being left guard Eric Steinbach, who signed a $49.5 million contract with the Browns as a free agent. But the Bengals have done a good job of drafting and grooming offensive linemen, and either Andrew Whitworth (12 starts and 16 games played as a rookie) or Stacy Andrews (3 starts) should provide a solid replacement for Steinbach. Eric Ghiaciuc, who started 13 games in 2006, is expected to withstand challenges from Alex Stepanovich and Ben Wilkerson to start in place of the retired Rich Braham.

The Bengals' well-known array of talented skill players is back intact. Carson Palmer is coming off a 2006 campaign in which he returned from a devastating knee injury to become the first quarterback in franchise history to throw for more than 4,000 yards in a season.

Chad Johnson and T.J. Houshmandzadeh form one of the most prolific receiving duos in the NFL, and Tab Perry and Antonio Chatman are poised to return from injuries to take over for the No. 3 receiver role that was Henry's. Feature back Rudi Johnson rushed for more than 1,300 yards and at least 12 touchdowns for the third year in a row.

After last season ended with an overtime loss at home to the Steelers that knocked the Bengals out of the playoffs, Lewis vowed to establish more discipline in his locker room.

"We're spending too much time trying to change habits," he said, "instead of coaching the good guys."

**FINAL GRADE**

**88**

STOCK REPORT: STEADY

HEADSHOT: COURTESY NFL

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

Michael Myers, DT (DEN)

*The Bengals made precious few non-draft acquisitions. The only veteran free agents brought in were ex-Cardinals center Alex Stepanovich and former Broncos defensive tackle Michael Myers.*

- Alex Stepanovich, C (ARI)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Eric Steinbach, OL (CLE)
- Tony Stewart, TE (OAK)
- Brian Simmons, LB (NO)
- Marcus Wilkins, LB (ATL)
- Kelley Washington, WR (NE)
- Kevin Kaesviharn, DB (NO)
- Shaun Smith, DT (CLE)
- Anthony Wright, QB (NYG)
- Tory James, CB (NE)

> "What better way to start the season than in front of the whole country? I can't wait to come up with something for Baltimore. As long as I'm trash-talking, I don't care [when the game is] ..."
>
> *—Chad Johnson on the Monday night matchup against the Ravens Sept. 10*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 341.1 | 9 |
| Rushing | 101.8 | 26 |
| Passing | 239.3 | 6 |
| Scoring | 373 | 8 |
| Punt Returns | 6.6 | 29 |
| Kick Returns | 20.5 | 29 |
| Red Zone TD % | 57.7 | 6t |
| Total Defense | 355.1 | 30 |
| Against Rush | 116.4 | 15 |
| Against Pass | 238.6 | 31t |
| Points Allowed | 331 | 17 |
| Interceptions | 19 | 8t |
| Sacks | 35 | 15t |
| Turnover Diff. | +7 | 6t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 313 | 88 | 200 | 25 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 52 | 258 | 30 | 17 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | 28 | 0 | 1 |

## BENGALS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Johnson, Doug | QB | 6-2 | 218 | 10/27/1977 | 6 | Florida |
| 9 | Palmer, Carson | QB | 6-5 | 230 | 12/27/1979 | 3 | USC |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 71 | Anderson, Willie | T | 6-5 | 340 | 07/11/1975 | 11 | Auburn |
| 79 | Andrews, Stacy | G | 6-7 | 342 | 06/02/1981 | 3 | Mississippi |
| 53 | Ghiaciuc, Eric | C | 6-4 | 302 | 05/28/1981 | 2 | Central Michigan |
| 76 | Jones, Levi | T | 6-5 | 307 | 08/24/1979 | 5 | Arizona State |
| 70 | Kieft, Adam | T | 6-7 | 337 | 08/21/1982 | 0 | Central Michigan |
| 75 | Kooistra, Scott | T | 6-6 | 320 | 10/14/1980 | 4 | N.C. State |
| 62 | Livings, Nate | T | 6-5 | 310 | 03/16/1982 | 0 | LSU |
| 66 | Reuber, Alan | T | 6-6 | 307 | 01/26/1981 | 1 | Texas A&M |
| 69 | Stepanovich, Alex | C | 6-4 | 312 | 09/25/1981 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 77 | Whitworth, Andrew | G | 6-7 | 339 | 12/12/1981 | 1 | LSU |
| 64 | Wilkerson, Ben | C | 6-4 | 297 | 11/22/1982 | 1 | LSU |
| 63 | Williams, Bobbie | G | 6-4 | 345 | 09/25/1976 | 6 | Arkansas |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31 | Johnson, Jeremi | RB | 5-11 | 265 | 09/04/1980 | 4 | Western Kentucky |
| 32 | Johnson, Rudi | RB | 5-10 | 225 | 10/01/1979 | 6 | Auburn |
| 37 | Manderino, Chris | RB | 6-0 | 233 | 12/22/1982 | 0 | California |
| 23 | Perry, Chris | RB | 6-0 | 224 | 12/27/1981 | 3 | Michigan |
| 33 | Watson, Kenny | RB | 6-0 | 220 | 03/13/1978 | 5 | Penn State |
| 35 | Wilson, Quincy | RB | 5-9 | 220 | 04/26/1981 | 1 | West Virginia |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 81 | Brazell, Bennie | WR | 6-1 | 173 | 06/02/1982 | 0 | LSU |
| 83 | Chatman, Antonio | WR | 5-8 | 183 | 02/12/1979 | 4 | Cincinnati |
| 86 | Day, Tim | TE | 6-3 | 255 | 09/03/1983 | 0 | Oregon |
| 49 | Ghent, Ronnie | TE | 6-2 | 253 | 01/05/1980 | 0 | Louisville |
| 18 | Green, Skyler | WR | 5-9 | 191 | 09/12/1984 | 1 | LSU |
| 89 | Guenther, Gregg | TE | 6-8 | 255 | 01/29/1982 | 1 | USC |
| 16 | Holt, Glenn | WR | 6-2 | 195 | 07/31/1984 | 1 | Kentucky |
| 84 | Houshmandzadeh, T.J. | WR | 6-1 | 197 | 09/26/1977 | 6 | Oregon State |
| 85 | Johnson, Chad | WR | 6-1 | 192 | 01/09/1978 | 6 | Oregon State |
| 82 | Kelly, Reggie | TE | 6-4 | 255 | 02/22/1977 | 8 | Mississippi State |
| 10 | McNeal, Reggie | WR | 6-2 | 205 | 09/20/1983 | 1 | Texas A&M |
| 88 | Perry, Tab | WR | 6-3 | 208 | 01/20/1982 | 2 | UCLA |
| 48 | St. Louis, Brad | TE | 6-3 | 243 | 08/19/1976 | 7 | Missouri State |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 95 | Adams, Sam | DT | 6-3 | 350 | 06/13/1973 | 13 | Texas A&M |
| 68 | Fanene, Jonathan | DE | 6-4 | 291 | 03/19/1982 | 2 | Utah |
| 91 | Geathers, Robert | DE | 6-3 | 265 | 08/11/1983 | 3 | Georgia |
| 78 | Henderson, Eric | DE | 6-3 | 265 | 01/08/1983 | 0 | Georgia Tech |
| 96 | Myers, Michael | DT | 6-2 | 300 | 01/20/1976 | 9 | Alabama |
| 94 | Peko, Domata | DT | 6-3 | 319 | 11/27/1984 | 1 | Michigan State |
| 98 | Robinson, Bryan | DE | 6-4 | 304 | 06/22/1974 | 10 | Fresno State |
| 92 | Rucker, Frostee | DE | 6-3 | 267 | 09/14/1983 | 0 | USC |
| 90 | Smith, Justin | DE | 6-4 | 275 | 09/30/1979 | 6 | Missouri |
| 97 | Thornton, John | DT | 6-3 | 297 | 10/02/1976 | 8 | West Virginia |
| 79 | Verdon, Jimmy | DE | 6-3 | 280 | 11/04/1981 | 1 | Arizona State |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27 | Brooks, Greg | CB | 5-11 | 182 | 12/16/1980 | 2 | Southern Miss |
| 28 | Jackson, Dexter | S | 6-0 | 210 | 07/28/1977 | 8 | Florida State |
| 44 | Jones, Herana-Daze | S | 5-11 | 205 | 04/15/1982 | 1 | Indiana |
| 22 | Joseph, Johnathan | CB | 5-11 | 192 | 04/16/1984 | 1 | South Carolina |
| 43 | Kilmer, Ethan | S | 6-0 | 205 | 01/31/1983 | 1 | Penn State |
| 24 | O'Neal, Deltha | CB | 5-11 | 194 | 01/30/1977 | 7 | California |
| 25 | Ratliff, Keiwan | CB | 5-11 | 185 | 04/19/1981 | 3 | Florida |
| 30 | Williams, Brandon | CB | 5-11 | 186 | 11/17/1980 | 0 | Michigan |
| 40 | Williams, Madieu | S | 6-1 | 203 | 10/18/1981 | 3 | Maryland |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | Brooks, Ahmad | LB | 6-3 | 259 | 03/14/1984 | 1 | Virginia |
| 36 | Busing, John | LB | 6-3 | 228 | 09/01/1983 | 1 | Miami (OH) |
| 57 | Frazier, Andre | LB | 6-5 | 234 | 06/29/1982 | 2 | Cincinnati |
| 93 | Jeanty, Rashad | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 04/17/1983 | 1 | UCF |
| 59 | Johnson, Landon | LB | 6-2 | 227 | 03/13/1981 | 3 | Purdue |
| 58 | Miller, Caleb | LB | 6-3 | 225 | 09/03/1980 | 3 | Arkansas |
| 52 | Nicholson, A.J. | LB | 6-1 | 240 | 06/25/1983 | 1 | Florida State |
| 99 | Pollack, David | LB | 6-2 | 255 | 06/19/1982 | 2 | Georgia |
| 51 | Thurman, Odell | LB | 6-0 | 235 | 07/09/1983 | 1 | Georgia |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | Graham, Shayne | K | 6-0 | 200 | 12/09/1977 | 6 | Virginia Tech |
| 19 | Larson, Kyle | P | 6-1 | 204 | 09/02/1980 | 3 | Nebraska |

**MARVIN LEWIS,** HEAD COACH

**Paul Alexander,** asst. head coach/off. line; **Jim Anderson,** running backs; **Bob Bratkowski,** off. coord.; **Chuck Bresnahan,** def. coord.; **Louie Cioffi,** asst. secondary; **Kevin Coyle,** secondary; **Paul Guenther,** asst. special teams/asst. linebackers; **Jonathan Hayes,** tight ends; **Jay Hayes,** def. line; **Ricky Hunley,** linebackers; **Mike Sheppard,** wide receivers; **Darrin Simmons,** special teams; **Bob Surace,** asst. off. line; **Ken Zampese,** quarterbacks

# PITTSBURGH 3

**AFC NORTH**

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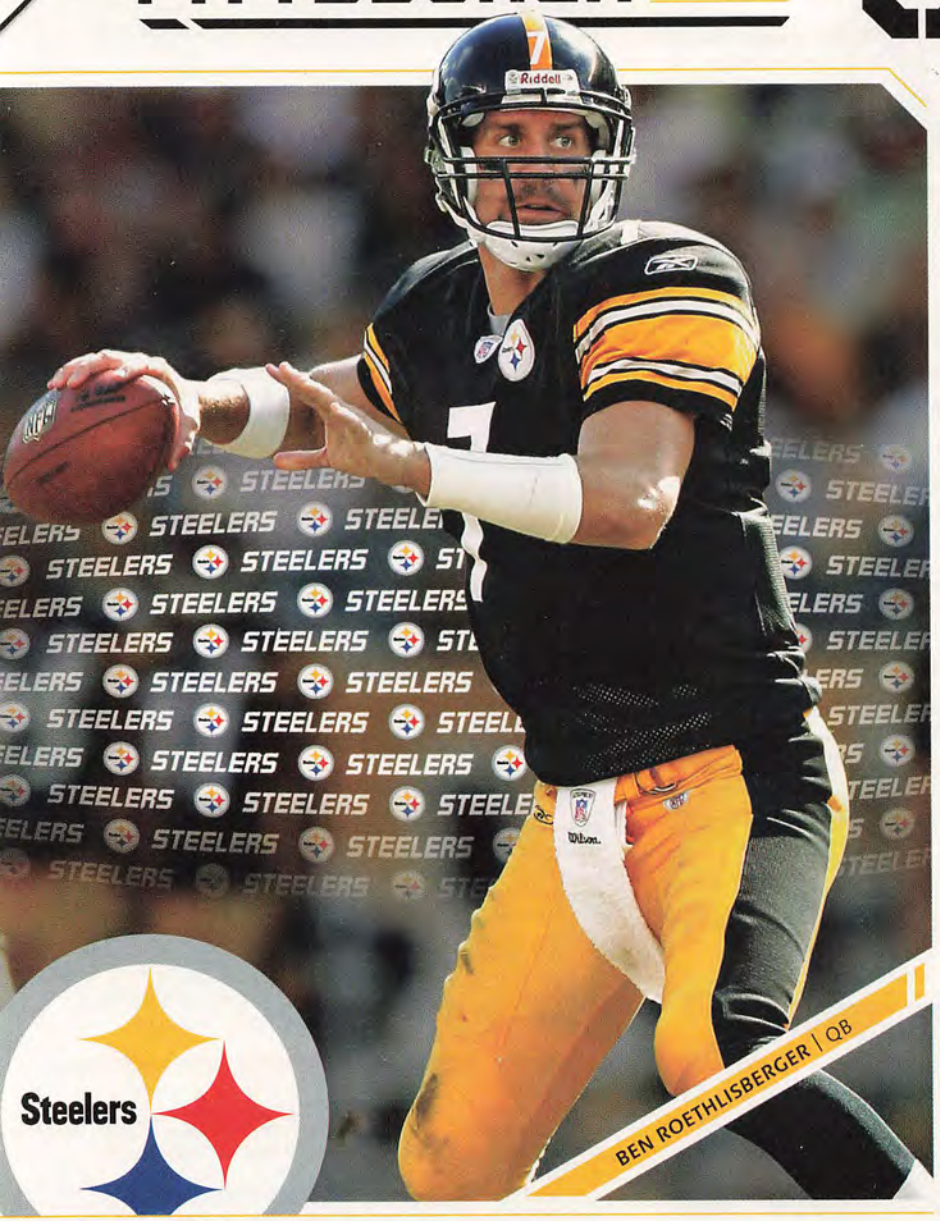
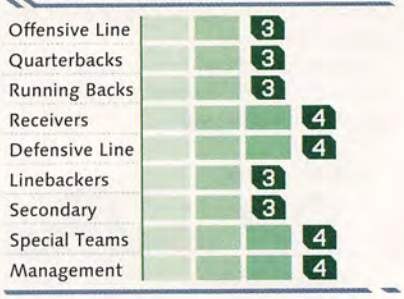



## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Ben Roethlisberger |
| FB | Dan Kreider |
| RB | Willie Parker |
| LT | Marvel Smith |
| LG | Alan Faneca |
| C | Sean Mahan |
| RG | Kendall Simmons |
| RT | Max Starks |
| TE | Heath Miller |
| WR | Santonio Holmes |
| WR | Hines Ward |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Aaron Smith |
| NT | Casey Hampton |
| RE | Brett Keisel |
| OLB | Clark Haggans |
| ILB | James Farrior |
| ILB | Larry Foote |
| OLB | James Harrison |
| LCB | Ike Taylor |
| RCB | Bryant McFadden |
| SS | Troy Polamalu |
| FS | Anthony Smith |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Daniel Sepulveda |
| K | Jeff Reed |
| PR | Santonio Holmes |
| KR | Ike Taylor |

## POWER RATINGS




ROB TRINGALI / SPORTSCHROME

## Tough act to follow

New Coach Mike Tomlin steps into the large shadow of Bill Cowher, but a talented roster should ease the transition.

The most stable organization in the NFL, and perhaps all of professional sports, is undergoing a major change.

For only the second time since Richard Nixon was in his first term as president, the Pittsburgh Steelers are transitioning to a new head coach.

After 15 years, 149 regular-season victories, eight division titles and one Super Bowl crown, Bill Cowher announced his resignation as coach Jan. 5. His jutting jaw had become as synonymous with the Steelers as the Terrible Towel.

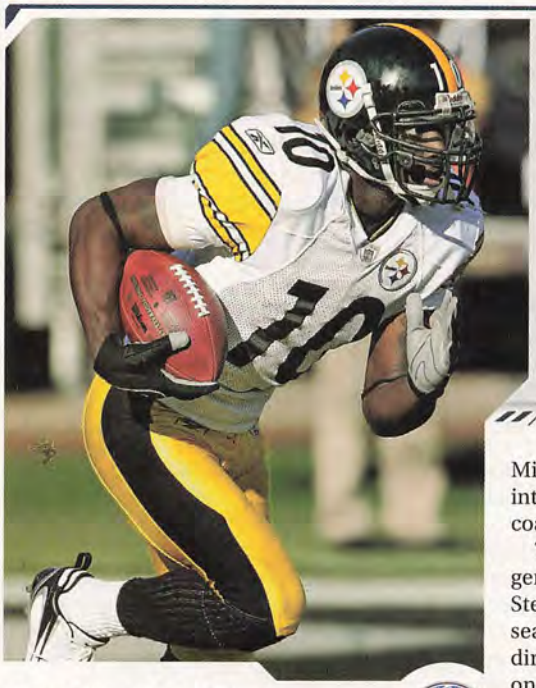
The Rooney family hired Cowher off the Kansas City staff in January 1992. He replaced Hall-of-Famer Chuck Noll, who won 193 regular-season games and four Super Bowls in 23 seasons as Pittsburgh's coach.

The next Steelers coach was expected to come off of Cowher's staff.

It didn't happen.

Enter 34-year-old Mike Tomlin, who had been defensive coordinator of the

## THE BOOK ON ... Santonio Holmes *(how a rival sizes him up)*



"He didn't quite get to 1,000 yards receiving [824], but he was not far off. He's explosive. People saw that in the last game against the Bengals [when Holmes had a 67-yard catch and run to win the game in overtime]. He can accelerate. He has excellent vertical speed. He can catch the deep ball. And he can turn a quick slant into a big play.

"I really like their combination of receivers. Hines [Ward] is one of the premier receivers in the league. I like their tight end, [Heath] Miller, who can catch the ball. And Holmes gives them another dimension."

Minnesota Vikings for one season after breaking into the league as one of Tony Dungy's position coaches at Tampa Bay.

The Rooneys are hoping to find another gem for the Steel City. Cowher piloted the Steelers to the NFL's best record in his 15 seasons. During his first year, 1992, Cowher directed Pittsburgh to its first division championship in eight seasons.

The 2007 Steelers are just one .500 season removed from the franchise's fifth Super Bowl victory. They won their division in 2001, 2002 and 2004 before making their improbable run to Cowher's only Super Bowl title as a wild-card team in 2005.

The talent cupboard is not bare, but Tomlin promises to rearrange the dishes. He'll be given the opportunity to remodel, as the Steelers' ownership is among the most patient in all of pro sports.

Though Tomlin retained the services of ageless Defensive Coordinator Dick LeBeau, the Steelers appear to be moving from their trademark four-linebacker scheme to a four-lineman set. Before the offseason free-agent period began, the contract of outside linebacker Joey Porter was terminated to save salary-cap space. Porter took his 60 career sacks to Miami.

## DRAFT REPORT

The Steelers' defense has been defined for years by the play from its linebackers. After making Joey Porter a cap casualty, Pittsburgh added **Lawrence Timmons** and **LaMarr Woodley** in the first two rounds. Timmons should start immediately and has the flexibility to play on the weakside if the Steelers eventually move to the 4-3 scheme. Woodley, a DE/OLB 'tweener, is suited for outside linebacker in the 3-4 alignment and is expected to push Clark Haggans for playing time next season. Tight end **Matt Spaeth** slipped some due to a shoulder injury, but shows the ability to block and catch and will compete with Heath Miller for the starting job. **Daniel Sepulveda** was the draft's top-rated punter and will replace Chris Gardocki next season. **Ryan McBean** is a DT/DE 'tweener who flashes ability as a pass rusher. **Cameron Stephenson** will compete for a backup job at guard. Cornerback **William Gay** may lack the athletic ability needed for the pro game. Receiver **Dallas Baker** isn't the fastest player, but made a lot of big catches for Florida last year.

**GRADE B-**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 15 | Timmons, Lawrence | LB | 6-1 | 234 | Florida State |
| 2 | 14 | Woodley, LaMarr | DE | 6-2 | 265 | Michigan |
| 3 | 13 | Spaeth, Matt | TE | 6-7 | 270 | Minnesota |
| 4 | 13 | Sepulveda, Daniel | P | 6-3 | 230 | Baylor |
| 4 | 33 | McBean, Ryan | DE | 6-5 | 290 | Oklahoma State |
| 5 | 19 | Stephenson, Cameron | G | 6-4 | 305 | Rutgers |
| 5 | 33 | Gay, William | CB | 5-10 | 190 | Louisville |
| 7 | 17 | Baker, Dallas | WR | 6-3 | 206 | Florida |

## THE COUNT

| 719 | 12-1 | 31.7 |
|---|---|---|
| Yards needed by Hines Ward to become the Steelers' all-time leading receiver. John Stallworth holds the current mark (8,723). | Pittsburgh's record when Willie Parker rushes for 100 or more yards. | Pittsburgh opponents' conversion rate on third-down plays of 10 or more yards, the highest mark in the NFL. |

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** @ *Cleveland* — SEPT. 9 | 1:00 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 2** vs. *Buffalo* — SEPT. 16 | 1:00 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 3** vs. *San Francisco* — SEPT. 23 | 1:00 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 4** @ *Arizona* — SEPT. 30 | 4:15 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 5** vs. *Seattle* — OCT. 7 | 1:00 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 6** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 7** @ *Denver* — OCT. 21 | 8:15 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 8** @ *Cincinnati* — OCT. 28 | 1:00 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 9** vs. *Baltimore* — NOV. 5 | 8:30 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 10** vs. *Cleveland* — NOV. 11 | 1:00 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 11** @ *New York Jets* — NOV. 18 | 1:00 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 12** vs. *Miami* — NOV. 26 | 8:30

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*Linebacker Joey Porter, released in March by the Steelers and signed by the Dolphins, returns to Pittsburgh for a Monday night game. Porter's personality was almost as large in Pittsburgh as that of retired Coach Bill Cowher.*

W L SCORE

**WEEK 13** vs. *Cincinnati* — DEC. 2 | 8:15 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 14** @ *New England* — DEC. 9 | 1:00 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 15** vs. *Jacksonville* — DEC. 16 | 1:00 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 16** @ *St. Louis* — DEC. 20 | 8:15 — W L SCORE

**WEEK 17** @ *Baltimore* — DEC. 30 | 1:00 — W L SCORE

MICHAEL PIMENTEL / ICON SMI

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/07 | W | 28-17 | Miami |
| 09/18 | L | 0-9 | at Jacksonville |
| 09/24 | L | 20-28 | Cincinnati |
| 10/08 | L | 13-23 | at San Diego |
| 10/15 | W | 45-7 | Kansas City |
| 10/22 | L | 38-41 | at Atlanta |
| 10/29 | L | 13-20 | at Oakland |
| 11/05 | L | 20-31 | Denver |
| 11/12 | W | 38-31 | New Orleans |
| 11/19 | W | 24-20 | at Cleveland |
| 11/26 | L | 0-27 | at Baltimore |
| 12/03 | W | 20-3 | Tampa Bay |
| 12/07 | W | 27-7 | Cleveland |
| 12/17 | W | 37-3 | at Carolina |
| 12/24 | L | 7-31 | Baltimore |
| 12/31 | W | 23-17 | at Cincinnati |

**WON 8, LOST 8**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parker | 337 | 1494 | 4.4 | 76 | 13 |
| Davenport | 60 | 221 | 3.7 | 48 | 1 |
| Roethlisberger | 32 | 98 | 3.1 | 20 | 2 |
| Haynes | 15 | 78 | 5.2 | 13 | 0 |
| Ward | 2 | 30 | 15.0 | 21 | 0 |
| Kuhn | 2 | 18 | 9.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Batch | 13 | 15 | 1.2 | 12 | 0 |
| Wilson | 2 | 14 | 7.0 | 14 | 0 |
| Holmes | 1 | 13 | 13.0 | 13 | 0 |
| Washington | 3 | 8 | 2.7 | 8 | 0 |
| Kreider | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| McFadden | 1 | -2 | -2.0 | -2 | 0 |
| **Steelers** | 469 | 1992 | 4.2 | 76 | 16 |
| **Opponents** | 408 | 1412 | 3.5 | 72t | 9 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ward | 74 | 975 | 13.2 | 70t | 6 |
| Holmes | 49 | 824 | 16.8 | 67t | 2 |
| Wilson | 37 | 504 | 13.6 | 38t | 1 |
| Washington | 35 | 624 | 17.8 | 49t | 4 |
| Miller | 34 | 393 | 11.6 | 87t | 5 |
| Parker | 31 | 222 | 7.2 | 25t | 3 |
| Haynes | 18 | 95 | 5.3 | 16 | 0 |
| Davenport | 15 | 193 | 12.9 | 32 | 1 |
| Kreider | 8 | 62 | 7.8 | 15 | 0 |
| Tuman | 7 | 73 | 10.4 | 21 | 1 |
| Morey | 2 | 29 | 14.5 | 15 | 0 |
| Kuhn | 1 | 15 | 15.0 | 15 | 0 |
| **Steelers** | 312 | 4026 | 12.9 | 87t | 23 |
| **Opponents** | 319 | 3619 | 11.3 | 66t | 21 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Roethlisberger | 469 | 280 | 3513 | 18 | 23 |
| Batch | 53 | 31 | 492 | 5 | 0 |
| Wilson | 1 | 1 | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| **Steelers** | 523 | 312 | 4026 | 23 | 23 |
| **Opponents** | 529 | 319 | 3619 | 21 | 20 |

**SACKS**

Porter 7, Haggans 6, Keisel 5.5, Aaron Smith 4.5, Farrior 4, Foote 4, Carter 2, Kirschke 2, Townsend 2, Brown 1, Polamalu 1

**STEELERS 39, OPPONENTS 49**

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Steelers)*

"They lost a lot of players. Jeff Hartings and Joey Porter are tough to replace. But they'll still be the Steelers. Of course, the biggest change will be the loss of Bill Cowher. It will be interesting to see what Mike Tomlin does. He was in the right place at the right time and surrounded by the right people.

"I can't help but think of all the things that Ben [Roethlisberger] went through [last season]. He might have thought he could still play at a high level, but he had to be affected by the motorcycle accident and the appendix."

Still, the Steelers used their first two draft picks on defenders who can play in the 3-4: Florida State linebacker Lawrence Timmons and Michigan end LaMarr Woodley. At 6-1 and 234 pounds, Timmons is strong against the run and excels as a fast blitzer from the outside. Kind of sounds like the second coming of Porter.

Ken Whisenhunt, the former Steelers offensive coordinator who was a candidate to replace Cowher, went to Arizona instead as the Cardinals' new head coach. Tomlin promoted Bruce Arians from Cowher's wide receivers coach to offensive coordinator. With center Jeff Hartings retired, Arians says he will put more responsibility on the shoulders of fourth-year quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

Arians wants Roethlisberger to call protections at the line, a job that used to belong to Hartings. In turn, Arians is going to use more three- and four-receiver sets on first down and give Roethlisberger chances to throw in fewer must-pass situations.

The run-first Steelers might be a thing of the past. Regardless of the run/pass ratio, Pittsburgh will have to cut down on its 37 turnovers, fourth worst in the NFL in 2006.

Roethlisberger threw 23 interceptions and just 18 touchdown passes, but couldn't be wholly blamed for being a little off. He survived a near-fatal motorcycle accident last June and had to undergo an emergency appendectomy in early September, which forced him to miss the season opener against Miami. Despite his 7-8 record as a starter in 2006, Roethlisberger still stands at 29-11 heading into his fourth NFL season. His winning percentage of .725 is second to Tom Brady's 70-24 mark for active quarterbacks.

In three seasons, Roethlisberger has 52 touchdown passes, 43 interceptions and a 62.4-percent completion rate.

The core of a talented team that won four of its last five games does return, even though Pro Bowl guard Alan Faneca refused to attend the April minicamp because he wanted a new contract.

Roethlisberger can hand the ball to tailback Willie Parker, who blossomed in his second season as a starter and first out of the shadow of former Steelers running back Jerome Bettis. Pittsburgh led the NFL in rushing for the composite

### DID YOU KNOW

Since 2000 the Steelers have posted a 27-7 record in regular-season games during December and January, the best mark in the NFL during that span.

Running back Willie Parker had two 200-yard games last year, including a franchise-record 223 yards against Cleveland in Week 14. Parker is the first Steeler to eclipse the 200-yard mark twice in his career and is the second undrafted NFL player in the last 40 years to accomplish the feat. Priest Holmes, who is the other, ran for 227 yards against Cincinnati while with Baltimore.

Pittsburgh punter Chris Gardocki has recorded 1,177 punts during his 16-year career without having one blocked, an NFL record.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**BRYANT McFADDEN**
**cornerback**

In his second NFL season, cornerback Bryant McFadden played in all 16 games and made nine starts. He started the final seven in a row and played well, recording two of his three interceptions in that span. McFadden is a willing and able tackler.

### STEELERS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Lynn Swann** (1974-82) — *Made big plays in the biggest games.*
2. **John Stallworth** (1974-87) — *Sixty-three TDs and 537 receptions.*
3. **Hines Ward** (1998-present) — *Joined John Stallworth as the only 8,000-yard receiver in club history.*

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

15 seasons under Cowher, but wrapped up Cowher's run with a No. 10 ranking at 124.5 yards a game last year.

Parker set a single-season franchise record with 16 touchdowns, passing Louis Lipps' 15, and rushed for 1,494 yards in 2006. The Steelers re-signed Najeh Davenport to back Parker up.

Pittsburgh spent big to sign guard/center Sean Mahan away from Tampa Bay as a free agent, its only significant acquisition of the offseason. Mahan is expected to replace Hartings as the starting center.

Roethlisberger has plenty of targets to choose from. Hines Ward is one of the NFL's premier receivers and a devastating downfield blocker. Heath Miller is one of three excellent pass-catching tight ends in the AFC North, along with Baltimore's Todd Heap and Cleveland's Kellen Winslow Jr.

Santonio Holmes, the Steelers' first-round pick in 2006, returns after coming on late last season. He had 16 of his 49 receptions and 320 of his 824 yards in the last four games. He could also become the answer to a trivia question: "Who scored the last touchdown for the Steelers with Cowher as coach?" Holmes had a 67-yard catch and run early in overtime of the season finale, a 23-17 victory at Cincinnati that knocked the Bengals out of the playoffs.

Much of the defense, except Porter, is back from a unit that was ranked in the top 10 in eight major categories, including third in rushing defense. Ends Aaron Smith and Brett Keisel return to flank nose tackle Casey Hampton. Three of four starting linebackers—Larry Foote, James Farrior and Clark Haggans—will be back. Porter's job is James Harrison's to lose.

Tomlin says he will stay with the 3-4 set but mix in some 4-3. He comes out of the Tampa-2 school, a scheme based on pressure created by four down linemen that forms an umbrella coverage deep to prevent long completions.

"It's all about the personnel you have," Tomlin says. "We have the best 3-4 people in the world, I think."

Tomlin says that he is an older coach than his chronological age.

"I'm kind of a football traditionalist, I really am," he says. "I'm an old soul in terms of football—it's black and white to me, it's an attrition game to me. The people who block and tackle win."

The Steelers have plenty of those kinds of players coming back. They were drafted and coached into Cowher's mold.

**FINAL GRADE**

**85**

STOCK REPORT: DOWN

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Sean Mahan, C/G (TB)**

*Jeff Hartings retired after an 11-year career, and the Steelers made their only major offseason move to replace him, signing ex-Buccaneers center/guard Sean Mahan to a five-year contract.*

Nick Eason, DT (CLE)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Joey Porter, LB (MIA)
- Sean Morey, WR (ARI)
- Rodney Bailey, DE (ARI)
- Jeff Hartings, C (retired)

> "The one thing that set him [Mike Tomlin] apart was his character, his personality—the more we talked with him the more comfortable we got. He's an impressive young man. Get to spend some time with Mike, and you come away feeling like this is a special person."
>
> *—Steelers President Art Rooney II on the hiring of new Coach Mike Tomlin*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 357.8 | 7 |
| Rushing | 124.5 | 10 |
| Passing | 233.3 | 9 |
| Scoring | 353 | 12t |
| Punt Returns | 8.4 | 19 |
| Kick Returns | 22.1 | 21 |
| Red Zone TD % | 50.0 | 15t |
| Total Defense | 300.3 | 9 |
| Against Rush | 88.3 | 3 |
| Against Pass | 212.1 | 20 |
| Points Allowed | 315 | 11t |
| Interceptions | 20 | 6t |
| Sacks | 39 | 11 |
| Turnover Diff. | -8 | 27t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 327 | 100 | 201 | 26 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 56 | 235 | 28 | 13 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 23 | 1 | 2 |

## STEELERS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | Batch, Charlie | QB | 6-2 | 216 | 12/05/1974 | 7 | Eastern Michigan |
| 5 | Randall, Bryan | QB | 6-0 | 222 | 08/16/1983 | 0 | Virginia Tech |
| 7 | Roethlisberger, Ben | QB | 6-5 | 241 | 03/02/1982 | 3 | Miami (OH) |
| 2 | St. Pierre, Brian | QB | 6-0 | 220 | 11/28/1979 | 1 | Boston College |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 74 | Colon, Willie | T | 6-3 | 315 | 04/09/1983 | 1 | Hofstra |
| 79 | Essex, Trai | T | 6-4 | 324 | 12/05/1982 | 2 | Northwestern |
| 66 | Faneca, Alan | G | 6-5 | 307 | 12/07/1976 | 9 | LSU |
| 68 | Kemoeatu, Chris | G | 6-3 | 344 | 01/04/1983 | 1 | Utah |
| 61 | Mahan, Sean | G | 6-3 | 301 | 05/28/1980 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 56 | Okobi, Chukky | C | 6-1 | 305 | 11/18/1978 | 6 | Purdue |
| 62 | Philip, Marvin | C | 6-1 | 306 | 02/03/1982 | 0 | California |
| 73 | Simmons, Kendall | G | 6-3 | 315 | 03/11/1979 | 4 | Auburn |
| 77 | Smith, Marvel | T | 6-5 | 321 | 08/06/1978 | 7 | Arizona State |
| 78 | Starks, Max | T | 6-8 | 337 | 01/10/1982 | 3 | Florida |
| 71 | Torrey, Brandon | G | 6-6 | 280 | 05/18/1983 | 0 | Howard |
| 60 | Warren, Greg | C | 6-3 | 252 | 10/18/1981 | 2 | North Carolina |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 44 | Davenport, Najeh | RB | 6-1 | 247 | 02/08/1979 | 5 | Miami (FL) |
| 38 | Davis, Carey | RB | 5-10 | 225 | 03/27/1981 | 1 | Illinois |
| 35 | Kreider, Dan | RB | 5-11 | 255 | 03/11/1977 | 7 | New Hampshire |
| 42 | Kuhn, John | RB | 6-0 | 255 | 09/09/1982 | 1 | Shippensburg |
| 39 | Parker, Willie | RB | 5-10 | 209 | 11/11/1980 | 3 | North Carolina |

| # | RECEIVERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 88 | Dekker, Jonathan | TE | 6-5 | 250 | 05/15/1983 | 0 | Princeton |
| 87 | Euhus, Tim | TE | 6-5 | 249 | 10/02/1980 | 3 | Oregon State |
| 10 | Holmes, Santonio | WR | 5-11 | 189 | 03/03/1984 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 11 | Marshall, Rasheed | WR | 6-1 | 190 | 07/11/1981 | 1 | West Virginia |
| 83 | Miller, Heath | TE | 6-5 | 256 | 10/22/1982 | 2 | Virginia |
| 15 | Reid, Willie | WR | 5-10 | 186 | 09/19/1982 | 1 | Florida State |
| 84 | Tuman, Jerame | TE | 6-4 | 253 | 03/24/1976 | 8 | Michigan |
| 86 | Ward, Hines | WR | 6-0 | 205 | 03/08/1976 | 9 | Georgia |
| 85 | Washington, Nate | WR | 6-1 | 185 | 08/28/1983 | 2 | Tiffin |
| 80 | Wilson, Cedrick | WR | 5-10 | 183 | 12/17/1978 | 6 | Tennessee |
| 18 | Young, Walter | WR | 6-4 | 220 | 12/07/1979 | 2 | Illinois |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 93 | Eason, Nick | DT | 6-3 | 305 | 05/29/1980 | 3 | Clemson |
| 98 | Hampton, Casey | NT | 6-1 | 325 | 09/03/1977 | 6 | Texas |
| 76 | Hoke, Chris | DT | 6-2 | 305 | 04/06/1976 | 3 | Brigham Young |
| 99 | Keisel, Brett | DE | 6-5 | 285 | 09/19/1978 | 4 | Brigham Young |
| 90 | Kirschke, Travis | DE | 6-3 | 298 | 09/06/1974 | 9 | UCLA |
| 96 | Nua, Shaun | DE | 6-5 | 280 | 05/22/1981 | 0 | Brigham Young |
| 74 | Paxson, Scott | DT | 6-5 | 284 | 02/03/1983 | 0 | Penn State |
| 91 | Smith, Aaron | DE | 6-5 | 298 | 04/09/1976 | 8 | Northern Colorado |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | Carter, Tyrone | S | 5-8 | 195 | 03/31/1976 | 7 | Minnesota |
| 25 | Clark, Ryan | S | 5-11 | 205 | 10/12/1979 | 5 | LSU |
| 21 | Colclough, Ricardo | CB | 5-11 | 195 | 04/18/1982 | 3 | Tusculum |
| 29 | Iwuoma, Chidi | CB | 5-9 | 184 | 02/19/1978 | 6 | California |
| 28 | Johnson, Jovon | CB | 5-9 | 177 | 11/02/1983 | 1 | Iowa |
| 45 | Lorello, Mike | S | 6-1 | 200 | 10/15/1983 | 0 | West Virginia |
| 37 | Madison, Anthony | CB | 5-9 | 180 | 10/08/1981 | 1 | Alabama |
| 20 | McFadden, Bryant | CB | 6-0 | 190 | 11/21/1981 | 2 | Florida State |
| 43 | Polamalu, Troy | S | 5-10 | 207 | 04/19/1981 | 4 | USC |
| 27 | Smith, Anthony | S | 5-11 | 192 | 09/20/1983 | 1 | Syracuse |
| 30 | Smith, Harrison | CB | 6-2 | 200 | 02/28/1983 | 0 | California |
| 24 | Taylor, Ike | CB | 6-1 | 191 | 05/05/1980 | 4 | La.-Lafayette |
| 26 | Townsend, Deshea | CB | 5-10 | 190 | 09/08/1975 | 9 | Alabama |

| # | LINEBACKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 51 | Farrior, James | LB | 6-2 | 243 | 01/06/1975 | 10 | Virginia |
| 50 | Foote, Larry | LB | 6-1 | 239 | 06/12/1980 | 5 | Michigan |
| 53 | Haggans, Clark | LB | 6-4 | 243 | 01/10/1977 | 7 | Colorado State |
| 97 | Harrison, Arnold | LB | 6-3 | 241 | 10/20/1982 | 1 | Georgia |
| 92 | Harrison, James | LB | 6-0 | 242 | 05/04/1978 | 4 | Kent State |
| 57 | Kriewaldt, Clint | LB | 6-1 | 248 | 03/16/1976 | 8 | Wis.-Stevens Point |
| 95 | Seigler, Richard | LB | 6-2 | 238 | 10/19/1980 | 2 | Oregon State |
| 47 | Stanley, Ronald | LB | 6-0 | 244 | 03/06/1983 | 1 | Michigan State |
| 54 | Wallace, Rian | LB | 6-3 | 243 | 05/24/1982 | 2 | Temple |

| # | KICKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | Gardocki, Chris | P | 6-1 | 192 | 02/07/1970 | 16 | Clemson |
| 3 | Reed, Jeff | K | 5-11 | 225 | 04/09/1979 | 5 | North Carolina |

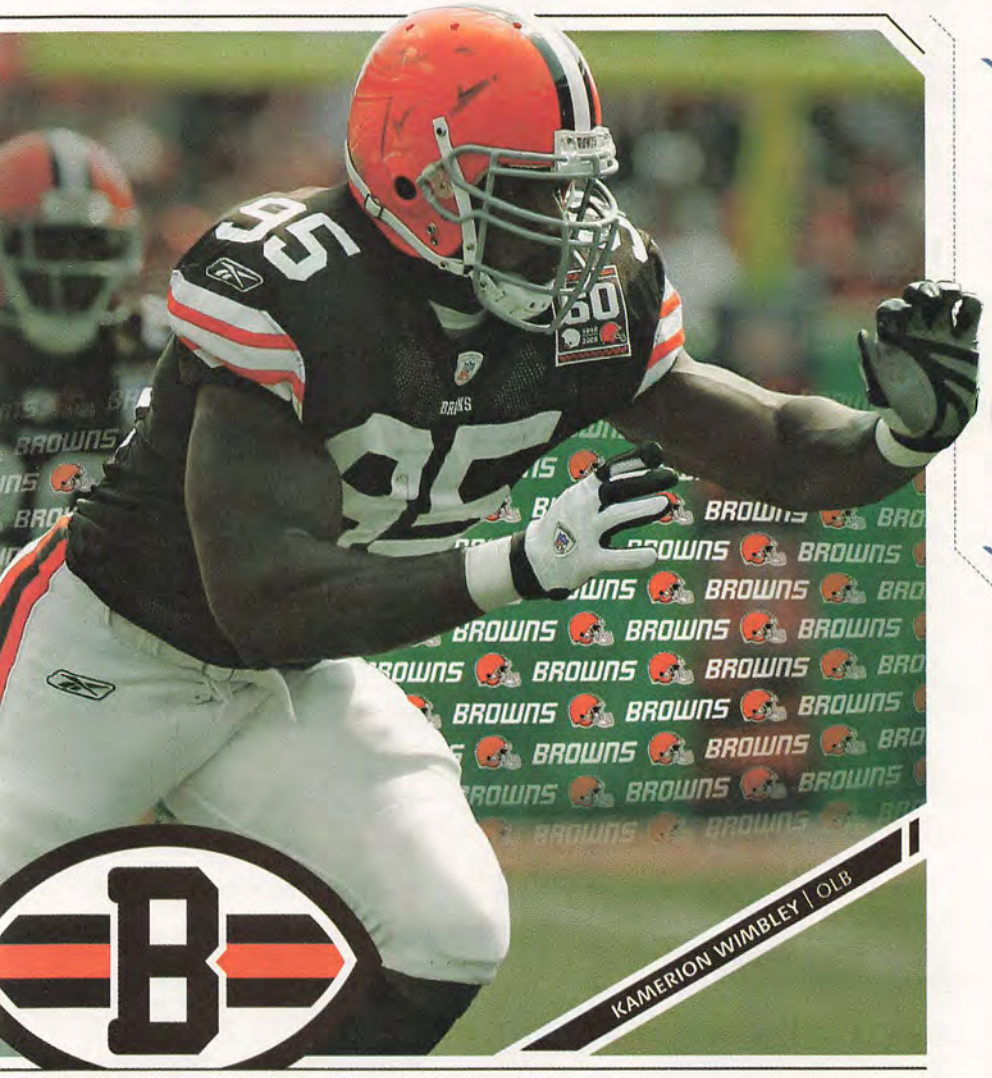
**MIKE TOMLIN, HEAD COACH**

**Bruce Arians**, off. coord.; **Dick LeBeau**, def. coord.; **Ken Anderson**, quarterbacks; **Keith Butler**, linebackers; **James Daniel**, tight ends; **Randy Fichtner**, wide receivers; **Ray Horton**, def. backs; **Amos Jones**, asst. special teams; **Bob Ligashesky**, special teams; **John Mitchell**, def. line; **Kirby Wilson**, running backs; **Larry Zierlein**, off. line

# CLEVELAND 4

**AFC NORTH**

2006 Record: 4-12
www.clevelandbrowns.com
CLEVELAND BROWNS STADIUM
Capacity: 73,200 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 888-891-1999




## Romeo, how far away art thou?

To make a reach for respectability, Crennel has made wholesale changes to his coaching staff and offensive line, but it may not be enough to save his job.

In eight seasons, the new Cleveland Browns have not progressed much past the expansion team that started play in 1999.

Cleveland slumped to 4-12 last season under its fourth coach, Romeo Crennel, who was supposed to be able to build on what predecessor Butch Davis had accomplished. Davis led the Browns to their lone playoff appearance but ended up resigning late during the 2004 season.

After Davis left (and a short interim stint by Terry Robiskie), new General

### BROWNS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1 **Ray Renfro (1952-63)**
*His 5,508 receiving yards are the most for a Browns wide receiver in franchise history (tight end Ozzie Newsome has the overall record with 7,980).*

2 **Paul Warfield (1964-69, 1976-77)**
*Sleek and elegant wideout who had 5,210 receiving yards and 52 touchdowns with the Browns.*

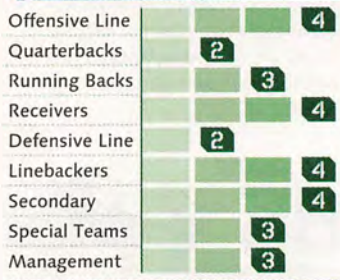
3 **Gary Collins (1962-71)**
*Defined consistency at Cleveland with 70 receiving touchdowns and 5,299 yards.*

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

### PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Charlie Frye |
| FB | Lawrence Vickers |
| RB | Jamal Lewis |
| LT | Joe Thomas |
| LG | Eric Steinbach |
| C | Hank Fraley |
| RG | Lennie Friedman |
| RT | Ryan Tucker |
| TE | Kellen Winslow |
| WR | Joe Jurevicius |
| WR | Braylon Edwards |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Orpheus Roye |
| NT | Shaun Smith |
| RE | Robaire Smith |
| OLB | Willie McGinest |
| ILB | D'Qwell Jackson |
| ILB | Andra Davis |
| OLB | Kamerion Wimbley |
| LCB | Leigh Bodden |
| RCB | Daven Holly |
| SS | Sean Jones |
| FS | Brodney Pool |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Dave Zastudil |
| K | Phil Dawson |
| PR | Tim Carter |
| KR | Joshua Cribbs |

### POWER RATINGS




THOMAS E. WITTE / GO PHOTOGRAPHY

Manager Phil Savage hired Crennel, who had coordinated the Patriots' defense in their three Super Bowl victories. His run in Cleveland started promisingly enough during the 2005 season, when the Browns won six games and local hero Charlie Frye from nearby University of Akron emerged as the potential franchise quarterback.

Frye completed 64.1 percent of his passes in 2006, but has won just six of his 18 NFL starts in two years. Derek Anderson was the replacement when Frye was injured for three late-season games and performed well. Still, the Browns finished 31st overall in total offense and rushing offense. Together, Frye (17) and Anderson (8) threw 25 interceptions, and as a team, the Browns lost 17 fumbles.

Cleveland's 42 turnovers and minus-15 differential was second worst in the league. Only Oakland, with 46 giveaways and a minus-23 differential, was worse.

Turnovers aside, the heat is now on Crennel, who has won just one of 12 AFC North games in two seasons. The Browns were winless in division games last year. No one doubts the effort, however. Savage and the front office have tried to build a winner.

Cleveland had another aggressive offseason and was the draft's most daring team. First, the Browns defied the experts and made the draft's most solid decision, taking Wisconsin left tackle Joe Thomas with the third overall pick. Then they traded up with Dallas, giving away a second-round selection this year along with their first-round pick in 2008 to select Ohio native and former Notre Dame QB Brady Quinn at No. 22 overall. The Browns also gambled in the middle of the second round on UNLV cornerback Eric Wright, a huge talent who brings character baggage with him to the Lake Erie shore.

If the bold moves go bust, Savage and Crennel won't be around to have to pick up the pieces. A widely circulated rumor has it that if the Browns don't turn their fortunes around in 2007, owner Randy Lerner will lure former Steelers Coach Bill Cowher out of retirement and make him the first $10 million-a-season coach/general manager in NFL history. Cowher, who was the coach of the hated Steelers for 15 seasons, started his career as special teams and defensive backs coach for the Browns in the mid-1980s.

The plum of another expensive free-agent haul was former Bengals offensive lineman Eric Steinbach. Cleveland invested $49.5 million

## THE BOOK ON ...

**Kamerion Wimbley** *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"He has proven, as a young player, that he can be a force at linebacker in the 3-4 defense. He's a combination of an end and outside linebacker. He was exactly what they needed to play Romeo [Crennel's] defense.

"He's what you like in an outside linebacker at 6-3, 250 pounds [listed at 245]. He can rush the passer and then play in coverage as a linebacker. He has that great combination of strength and speed."

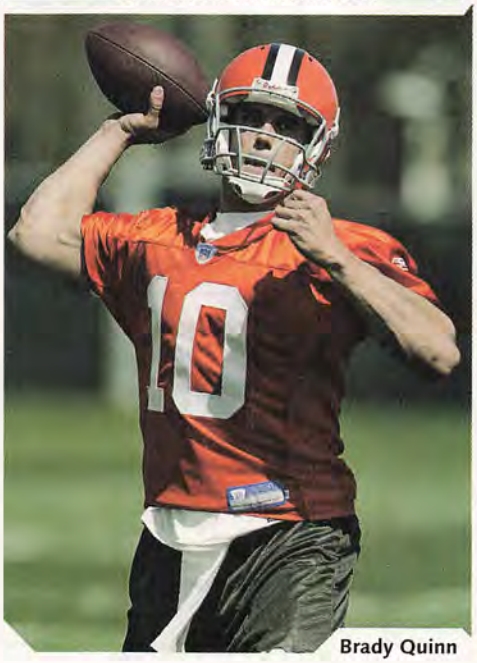
## DRAFT REPORT

The Browns had a difficult decision to make with the No. 3 overall pick, as **Brady Quinn** and Adrian Peterson were available. Instead, Cleveland went with OT **Joe Thomas**. The former Wisconsin star will start immediately at left tackle and help solidify the line playing next to free-agent signee Eric Steinbach (Bengals). Cleveland traded its first-round draft choice in 2008 to Dallas in order to move up and select Quinn at 22nd overall. The slide cost Quinn millions, but he will become the face of the franchise and have the opportunity to play for his hometown team. With the uncertainty of Gary Baxter's return from a devastating injury to both knees, **Eric Wright** was added to compete for one of the starting cornerback jobs. Wright is a first-round talent who dropped to 53rd overall due to character concerns. **Brandon McDonald** is an underrated cornerback who has a good chance to make the roster. **Melila Purcell** and **Chase Pittman** were added to upgrade the depth at defensive end. Wide receiver **Syndric Steptoe** could replace Dennis Northcutt as the team's punt returner. Without a first-round pick next year, the development of Quinn could make or break the franchise for the next 10 years.

**GRADE** B+

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | Thomas, Joe | T | 6-6 | 313 | Wisconsin |
| 1 | 22 | Quinn, Brady | QB | 6-3 | 226 | Notre Dame |
| 2 | 21 | Wright, Eric | CB | 5-11 | 190 | UNLV |
| 5 | 3 | McDonald, Brandon | CB | 5-11 | 180 | Memphis |
| 6 | 26 | Purcell, Melila | DE | 6-5 | 266 | Hawaii |
| 7 | 3 | Pittman, Chase | DE | 6-5 | 273 | LSU |
| 7 | 24 | Steptoe, Syndric | WR | 5-9 | 170 | Arizona |



Brady Quinn

RON SCHWANE / ICON SMI

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. *Pittsburgh*
SEPT. 9 | 1:00
**MUST-SEE GAME**
*Three of the Browns' first four games are at home against AFC North rivals, and they must improve on their 1-11 division record under Coach Romeo Crennel if they want to avoid the basement again.*
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 2** vs. *Cincinnati*
SEPT. 16 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 3** @ *Oakland*
SEPT. 23 | 4:05
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 4** vs. *Baltimore*
SEPT. 30 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 5** @ *New England*
OCT. 7 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 6** vs. *Miami*
OCT. 14 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 7** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 8** @ *St. Louis*
OCT. 28 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 9** vs. *Seattle*
NOV. 4 | 4:05
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 10** @ *Pittsburgh*
NOV. 11 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 11** @ *Baltimore*
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 12** vs. *Houston*
NOV. 25 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 13** @ *Arizona*
DEC. 2 | 4:05
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 14** @ *New York Jets*
DEC. 9 | 4:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 15** vs. *Buffalo*
DEC. 16 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 16** @ *Cincinnati*
DEC. 23 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 17** vs. *San Francisco*
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 14-19 | New Orleans |
| 09/17 | L | 17-34 | at Cincinnati |
| 09/24 | L | 14-15 | Baltimore |
| 10/01 | W | 24-21 | at Oakland |
| 10/08 | L | 12-20 | at Carolina |
| 10/22 | L | 7-17 | Denver |
| 10/29 | W | 20-13 | New York Jets |
| 11/05 | L | 25-32 | at San Diego |
| 11/12 | W | 17-13 | at Atlanta |
| 11/19 | L | 20-24 | Pittsburgh |
| 11/26 | L | 0-30 | Cincinnati |
| 12/03 | W | 31-28 | Kansas City |
| 12/07 | L | 7-27 | at Pittsburgh |
| 12/17 | L | 17-27 | at Baltimore |
| 12/24 | L | 7-22 | Tampa Bay |
| 12/31 | L | 6-14 | at Houston |

**WON 4, LOST 12**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Droughns | 220 | 758 | 3.4 | 22 | 4 |
| Frye | 47 | 215 | 4.6 | 17 | 3 |
| Wright | 62 | 189 | 3.0 | 18 | 0 |
| Harrison | 20 | 60 | 3.0 | 15 | 0 |
| Anderson | 4 | 47 | 11.8 | 33 | 0 |
| Northcutt | 3 | 32 | 10.7 | 16 | 0 |
| T. Smith | 8 | 14 | 1.8 | 3 | 0 |
| Cribbs | 2 | 11 | 5.5 | 9 | 0 |
| Edwards | 3 | 7 | 2.3 | 8 | 0 |
| Vickers | 3 | 2 | 0.7 | 2 | 0 |
| **Browns** | 372 | 1335 | 3.6 | 33 | 7 |
| **Opponents** | 514 | 2273 | 4.4 | 59t | 14 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winslow | 89 | 875 | 9.8 | 40 | 3 |
| Edwards | 61 | 884 | 14.5 | 75 | 6 |
| Jurevicius | 40 | 495 | 12.4 | 52 | 3 |
| Heiden | 36 | 249 | 6.9 | 13 | 2 |
| Droughns | 27 | 169 | 6.3 | 24 | 0 |
| Northcutt | 22 | 228 | 10.4 | 43 | 0 |
| Cribbs | 10 | 91 | 9.1 | 14 | 0 |
| Harrison | 9 | 47 | 5.2 | 12 | 0 |
| T. Smith | 8 | 21 | 2.6 | 7 | 0 |
| Wright | 6 | 82 | 13.7 | 54 | 0 |
| Vickers | 6 | 60 | 10.0 | 29 | 0 |
| Wilson | 2 | 32 | 16.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Dinkins | 2 | 14 | 7.0 | 11 | 1 |
| **Browns** | 318 | 3247 | 10.2 | 75 | 15 |
| **Opponents** | 283 | 3379 | 11.9 | 77t | 20 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Frye | 392 | 252 | 2454 | 10 | 17 |
| Anderson | 117 | 66 | 793 | 5 | 8 |
| Cribbs | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dorsey | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Browns** | 512 | 318 | 3247 | 15 | 25 |
| **Opponents** | 499 | 283 | 3379 | 20 | 18 |

**SACKS**

Wimbley 11, Fraser 4.5, McGinest 4, Thompson 2, Davis 1, McKinley 1, Pool 1, Roye 1, Stewart 1, Williams 1, Jones 0.5

**BROWNS 28, OPPONENTS 54**

over seven years in Steinbach, who can play every position on the line but is slated to start at left guard (his primary position in Cincinnati). Left tackle could very well be Steinbach's best position. Regardless of where he starts, Steinbach will give the Browns rare versatility.

The Browns also re-signed center Hank Fraley and guard/center Lennie Friedman, while picking up center/guard Seth McKinney from the Dolphins. The coaching staff is optimistic that right tackle Ryan Tucker will be able to return to the starting lineup after being placed on the reserve/non-football illness list following Week 11 last season.

In addition to a hopeful improvement at run blocking, the Browns are also looking for better pass protection. They allowed 54 sacks in 2006, ranking 27th in sacks given up per pass play.

So an offense that scored just 22 touchdowns wasn't all the fault of Anderson and Frye, who were often left to run for their lives. Although Quinn is now in the mix, rookie quarterbacks need time to develop, more time than Crennel might have left. The job would appear to be Frye's to lose, and his performance should improve behind a vastly improved offensive line.

"I think whatever decision you make for the team, whether it's short-term or long-term, it's what you think is the best thing to do and you go with it," says Crennel, who also optimistically points to Tennessee rookie quarterback Vince Young and his major role in pushing the Titans to an 8-8 finish last year.

Crennel wants to run the ball more effectively, regardless of who is playing quarterback, and the Browns think the addition of Jamal Lewis, Steinbach and Thomas should make a big difference. But there are questions of how much Lewis has left. Though he did run for 1,132 yards (3.6-yard average) and nine touchdowns for the Ravens in 2006, Lewis is not the same punishing runner he was earlier in his career.

Cleveland signed Lewis to a one-year deal after Baltimore waived him in the offseason, then Savage turned around and traded incumbent Reuben Droughns to the Giants for wide receiver Tim Carter.

Savage and Crennel turned over the coaching staff, hiring 10 new assistants, including Offensive Coordinator Rob Chudzinski, San Diego's tight ends coach the previous two seasons. Maurice Carthon was fired midway through the 2006 season and was replaced by then-offensive line coach Jeff Davidson, who left in January to be the Panthers' offensive coordinator.

The Browns also hired Ted Daisher as the new special-teams coordinator and obtained new strength and conditioning coaches in Tom Myslinski and assistant Alan DeGennaro, both from the University of Pittsburgh.

But clearly the focus is on upgrading the moribund offense. Cleveland brought in Wes Chandler to coach the

### DID YOU KNOW

Linebacker Kamerion Wimbley, the Browns' 13th overall draft pick in 2006, recorded a team-high 11 sacks, setting a new rookie mark.

Wide receiver Braylon Edwards and tight end Kellen Winslow Jr. became the first receiving duo in club history to each record over 850 yards in a season.

Kicker Phil Dawson and cornerback Daylon McCutheon are the only remaining players from the Browns' 1999 expansion team.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**BRODNEY POOL**
safety

Pool will likely take over as a starting safety after the free-agent loss of Brian Russell (Seahawks). Entering his third year, Pool has mainly been used as a backup in his first two seasons.

### NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 264.6 | 31 | Total Defense | 344.7 | 27 |
| Rushing | 83.4 | 31 | Against Rush | 142.1 | 29 |
| Passing | 181.1 | 23 | Against Pass | 202.6 | 15 |
| Scoring | 238 | 30 | Points Allowed | 356 | 22 |
| Punt Returns | 10.3 | 7 | Interceptions | 18 | 10t |
| Kick Returns | 23.0 | 13 | Sacks | 28 | 27t |
| Red Zone TD % | 48.7 | 17 | Turnover Diff. | -15 | 31 |

**FIRST DOWNS**

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 250 | 72 | 153 | 25 |

**RED ZONE OFFENSE**

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 39 | 175 | 19 | 14 |

**TOUCHDOWNS**

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 15 | 1 | 2 |

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Browns)*

"The Browns have a lot of talent offensively. They have not had the stability at quarterback to get the offense going. They have weapons outside [Braylon Edwards]. The tight end [Kellen Winslow Jr.], when healthy, is dangerous. They've improved the offensive line. But whether it's Charlie Frye or [a veteran], they need better quarterback play.

"They have drafted well on defense, especially at linebacker and in the secondary. I wonder about Jamal Lewis. He isn't what he was a few years ago, but he does give them an upgrade in the running game behind what should be a better line."

wide receivers and Alfredo Roberts to handle the tight ends. Anthony Lynn is the new running backs coach, while Steve Marshall is charged with upgrading the offensive line.

Besides the additions on the offensive line and throughout the offense, the Browns also sought to upgrade their defense through free agency in the 2007 offseason. They signed linebacker and pass-rush specialist Antwan Peek from Houston, defensive tackle Shaun Smith (Bengals), defensive end Robaire Smith (Titans) and cornerback Kenny Wright (Redskins).

Now heading into their third year in Crennel's four-linebacker defense, the Browns have better personnel to play the scheme with second-year linebackers Kamerion Wimbley and D'Qwell Jackson. Wimbley set a franchise rookie record with 11 sacks, while Jackson started the first 13 games before a bad toe landed him on the injured reserve list for the rest of the season.

Jackson and Wimbley were part of a productive 2006 draft class that also included Leon Williams in the fourth round and Lawrence Vickers in the sixth. Vickers projects to be the starting fullback after appearing in all 16 games last year with one start. Williams, another linebacker, made three starts on the inside and had 42 total tackles.

The defense ranked 27th overall but was 15th against the pass. The Browns' secondary is the unit's strength. Cleveland intercepted 18 passes in 2006, the most for the franchise since 2001. Cornerback Daven Holly and safety Sean Jones each had five picks. And the Browns are looking for continued growth from their top cornerback, Leigh Bodden, who had two interceptions and 35 total tackles in 2006 despite missing seven games with ankle injuries.

**FINAL GRADE** 77

**STOCK REPORT** UP

## THE COUNT

**64.1**

The completion percentage for quarterback Charlie Frye last year, the second-highest mark for a season in franchise history.

**18**

The point deficit the Browns overcame in a 24-21 win against the Oakland Raiders in Week Four, the second-largest comeback in team history.

**54**

Sacks allowed by the Browns last season, third worst in the NFL.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Eric Steinbach,** OL (CIN)

*The Browns wasted no time in signing one of the top free agents on the market in former Bengals guard Steinbach. Cleveland will pay him $49.5 million over the next seven years.*

- Jamal Lewis, RB (BAL)
- Antwan Peek, LB (HOU)
- Kenny Wright, DB (WAS)
- Seth McKinney, C/G (MIA)
- Robaire Smith, DE (TEN)
- Shaun Smith, DT (CIN)
- Mike Adams, DB (SF)
- Tim Carter, WR (trade, NYG)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Reuben Droughns, RB (trade, NYG)
- Dennis Northcutt, WR (JAX)
- Brian Russell, S (SEA)
- Alvin McKinley, DE (DEN)
- Terrelle Smith, FB (ARI)
- Ralph Brown, DB (ARI)
- Nick Eason, DT (PIT)

## BROWNS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Anderson, Derek | QB | 6-6 | 229 | 06/15/1983 | 1 | Oregon State |
| 11 | Dorsey, Ken | QB | 6-4 | 211 | 04/22/1981 | 3 | Miami (FL) |
| 9 | Frye, Charlie | QB | 6-4 | 218 | 08/28/1981 | 2 | Akron |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 57 | Bentley, LeCharles | C | 6-2 | 313 | 11/07/1979 | 4 | Ohio State |
| 71 | Butler, Kelly | T | 6-7 | 334 | 07/24/1982 | 2 | Purdue |
| 70 | Dorsey, Nat | T | 6-7 | 345 | 09/09/1983 | 3 | Georgia Tech |
| 66 | Fraley, Hank | C | 6-2 | 300 | 09/21/1977 | 6 | Robert Morris |
| 62 | Friedman, Lennie | G | 6-3 | 295 | 10/13/1976 | 7 | Duke |
| 79 | Lougheed, Pete | T | 6-5 | 300 | 11/05/1979 | 0 | Purdue |
| 67 | Matua, Fred | G | 6-2 | 307 | 01/14/1984 | 0 | USC |
| 68 | McKinney, Seth | C | 6-3 | 310 | 06/12/1979 | 4 | Texas A&M |
| 64 | Pontbriand, Ryan | C | 6-2 | 250 | 10/01/1979 | 4 | Rice |
| 77 | Shaffer, Kevin | T | 6-5 | 320 | 03/02/1980 | 5 | Tulsa |
| 50 | Smith, Rob | G | 6-4 | 306 | 03/08/1984 | 1 | Tennessee |
| 61 | Sowells, Isaac | G | 6-3 | 324 | 05/04/1982 | 1 | Indiana |
| 65 | Steinbach, Eric | G | 6-6 | 290 | 04/04/1980 | 4 | Iowa |
| 72 | Tucker, Ryan | T | 6-6 | 318 | 06/12/1975 | 10 | TCU |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24 | Barclay, Chris | RB | 5-10 | 180 | 10/15/1983 | 0 | Wake Forest |
| 35 | Harrison, Jerome | RB | 5-9 | 199 | 02/26/1983 | 1 | Washington State |
| 31 | Lewis, Jamal | RB | 5-11 | 245 | 08/26/1979 | 6 | Tennessee |
| 39 | Ricard, Alan | RB | 5-11 | 237 | 01/17/1977 | 5 | Louisiana-Monroe |
| 47 | Vickers, Lawrence | RB | 6-0 | 233 | 05/08/1983 | 1 | Colorado |
| 29 | Wright, Jason | RB | 5-10 | 210 | 07/12/1982 | 3 | Northwestern |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 86 | Carter, Tim | WR | 6-0 | 187 | 09/21/1979 | 5 | Auburn |
| 16 | Cribbs, Joshua | WR | 6-1 | 192 | 06/09/1983 | 2 | Kent State |
| 87 | Dinkins, Darnell | TE | 6-4 | 259 | 01/20/1977 | 5 | Pittsburgh |
| 17 | Edwards, Braylon | WR | 6-3 | 212 | 02/21/1983 | 2 | Michigan |
| 82 | Heiden, Steve | TE | 6-5 | 267 | 09/21/1976 | 8 | South Dakota St. |
| 84 | Jurevicius, Joe | WR | 6-5 | 232 | 12/23/1974 | 9 | Penn State |
| 89 | Krause, Ryan | TE | 6-3 | 256 | 06/16/1981 | 2 | Nebraska-Omaha |
| 18 | Mosley, Kendrick | WR | 6-2 | 207 | 07/21/1981 | 1 | Western Michigan |
| 85 | Ortega, Buck | TE | 6-5 | 224 | 11/22/1981 | 0 | Miami (FL) |
| 83 | Sanders, Steve | WR | 6-3 | 201 | 12/23/1982 | 0 | Bowling Green |
| 81 | Wilson, Travis | WR | 6-1 | 213 | 02/11/1984 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 80 | Winslow, Kellen | TE | 6-4 | 248 | 07/21/1983 | 2 | Miami (FL) |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 75 | Fraser, Simon | DE | 6-6 | 295 | 03/27/1983 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 93 | Harris, Orien | DT | 6-3 | 302 | 06/03/1983 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 74 | Hoffman, Andrew | DT | 6-4 | 296 | 02/15/1982 | 0 | Virginia |
| 78 | Kelley, Ethan | DT | 6-2 | 320 | 02/12/1980 | 3 | Baylor |
| 96 | Oshinowo, Babatunde | DT | 6-1 | 305 | 01/14/1983 | 1 | Stanford |
| 69 | Parker, J'Vonne | DT | 6-4 | 323 | 06/07/1982 | 2 | Rutgers |
| 99 | Roye, Orpheus | DT | 6-4 | 315 | 01/21/1973 | 11 | Florida State |
| 73 | Smith, Alvin | DT | 6-2 | 322 | 06/16/1982 | 0 | Oregon State |
| 98 | Smith, Robaire | DE | 6-4 | 328 | 11/15/1977 | 7 | Michigan State |
| 91 | Smith, Shaun | DT | 6-2 | 315 | 08/19/1981 | 4 | South Carolina |
| 92 | Washington, Ted | DT | 6-5 | 365 | 04/13/1968 | 16 | Louisville |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | Adams, Mike | S | 5-11 | 195 | 03/24/1981 | 3 | Delaware |
| 23 | Baxter, Gary | CB | 6-2 | 210 | 11/24/1978 | 6 | Baylor |
| 28 | Bodden, Leigh | CB | 6-1 | 192 | 09/24/1981 | 4 | Duquesne |
| 36 | Emanuel II, Ben | S | 6-3 | 213 | 06/18/1982 | 1 | UCLA |
| 38 | Fontenot, Therrian | CB | 5-10 | 187 | 06/28/1981 | 2 | Fresno State |
| 27 | Hamilton, Justin | S | 6-3 | 217 | 09/17/1982 | 1 | Virginia Tech |
| 39 | Holly, Daven | CB | 5-10 | 192 | 08/08/1982 | 2 | Cincinnati |
| 26 | Jones, Sean | S | 6-1 | 215 | 03/02/1982 | 2 | Georgia |
| 41 | LeSueur, Jeremy | S | 6-0 | 204 | 10/05/1980 | 1 | Michigan |
| 22 | Minter, DeMario | CB | 5-11 | 191 | 02/20/1984 | 0 | Georgia |
| 30 | Perkins, Antonio | CB | 5-11 | 194 | 01/09/1982 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 33 | Perry, Jereme | CB | 6-0 | 192 | 12/15/1981 | 1 | Eastern Michigan |
| 21 | Pool, Brodney | S | 6-2 | 208 | 05/24/1984 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 37 | Sandy, Justin | S | 6-0 | 207 | 02/22/1982 | 2 | Northern Iowa |
| 25 | Wright, Kenny | CB | 6-1 | 207 | 09/14/1977 | 8 | Northwestern St. |

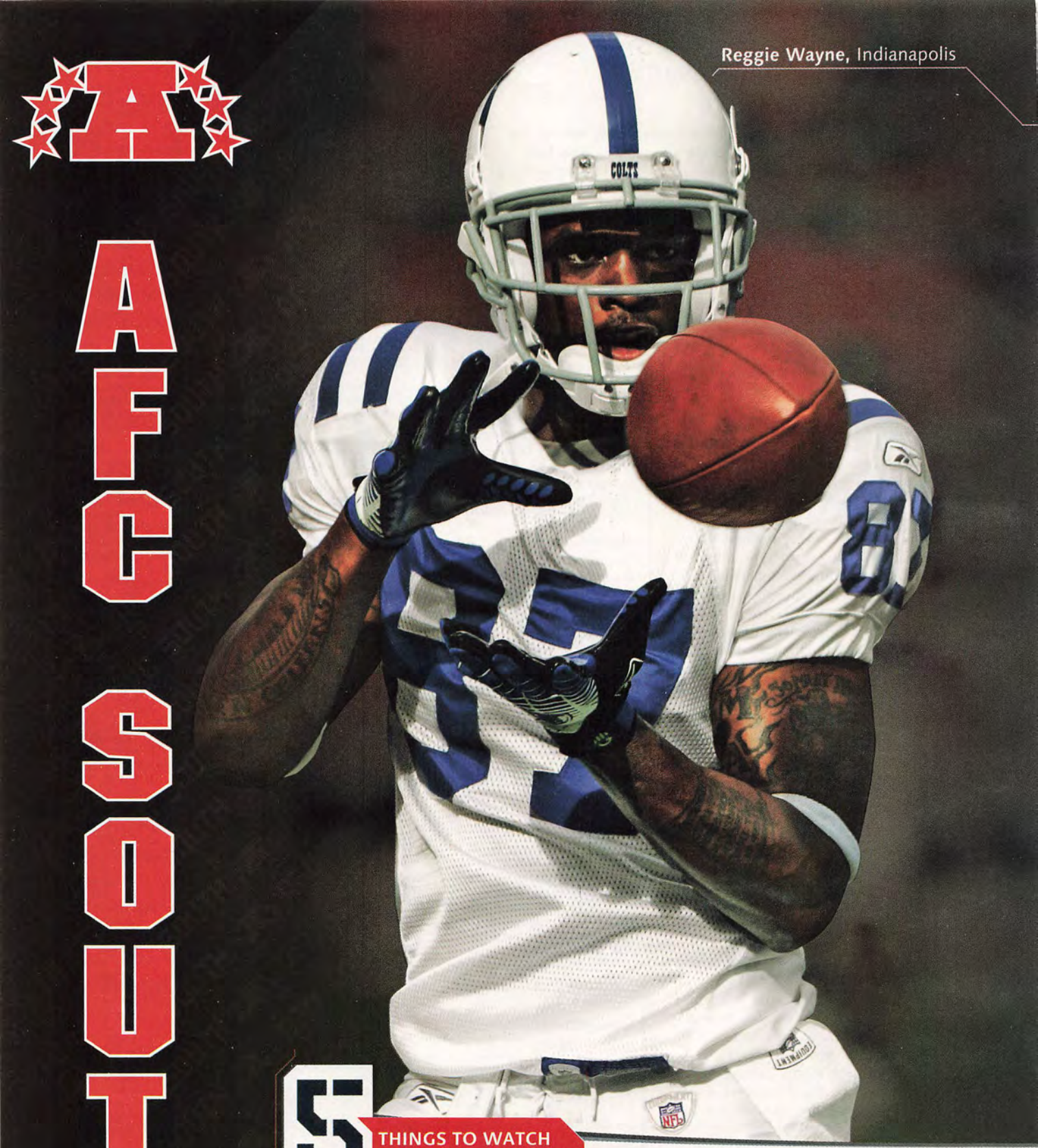
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 54 | Davis, Andra | LB | 6-1 | 254 | 12/23/1978 | 5 | Florida |
| 58 | Jackson, D'Qwell | LB | 6-0 | 228 | 09/26/1983 | 1 | Maryland |
| 55 | McGinest, Willie | LB | 6-5 | 268 | 12/11/1971 | 13 | USC |
| 90 | McMillan, David | LB | 6-3 | 250 | 09/20/1981 | 2 | Kansas |
| 56 | Peek, Antwan | LB | 6-3 | 250 | 10/29/1979 | 4 | Cincinnati |
| 59 | Smith, Clifton | LB | 6-3 | 253 | 07/21/1980 | 2 | Syracuse |
| 56 | Speegle, Nick | LB | 6-6 | 250 | 11/29/1981 | 2 | New Mexico |
| 52 | Stewart, Matt | LB | 6-3 | 236 | 08/31/1979 | 6 | Vanderbilt |
| 51 | Thompson, Chaun | LB | 6-2 | 249 | 05/22/1980 | 4 | West Texas A&M |
| 53 | Unck, Mason | LB | 6-3 | 238 | 09/07/1980 | 4 | Arizona State |
| 94 | Williams, Leon | LB | 6-2 | 238 | 07/30/1983 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 95 | Wimbley, Kamerion | LB | 6-3 | 245 | 10/13/1983 | 1 | Florida State |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Dawson, Phil | K | 5-11 | 201 | 01/23/1975 | 8 | Texas |
| 15 | Zastudil, Dave | P | 6-3 | 220 | 10/26/1978 | 5 | Ohio |

**ROMEO CRENNEL,** HEAD COACH

**Rob Chudzinski,** off. coord.; **Todd Grantham,** def. coord.; **Ted Daisher,** special teams coord.; **Wes Chandler,** wide receivers; **Mike Haluchak,** linebackers; **Anthony Lynn,** running backs; **Steve Marshall,** off. line; **Randy Melvin,** def. line; **Alfredo Roberts,** tight ends; **Rip Scherer,** asst. head coach/quarterbacks; **Mike Sullivan,** asst. off. line; **Mel Tucker,** def. backs; **Cory Undlin;** secondary/asst. special teams

# AFC SOUTH




Reggie Wayne, Indianapolis

## 5 THINGS TO WATCH

1. Can Vince Young avoid the sophomore jinx? Will defenses adjust to his talent as a runner, which produced more than 500 yards of rushing offense and broke the backs of third-down defenses with scrambles that produced first downs? He plays behind a solid line, and management tried to upgrade his receiving corps.

2. Indianapolis finally won its Super Bowl with Peyton Manning and Tony Dungy, but the Colts, as they expected, sustained heavy free-agent losses on defense, losing four starters. And, as if every opponent wasn't already gunning for the Colts and Manning, they'll face even more of a challenge with those rings on.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

1 COLTS 90

2 JAGUARS 94

3 TITANS 98

4 TEXANS 102

## Competition for Colts likely to get too close for comfort in 2007

By Mark Curnutte, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*

The times, they are a-changin' in the AFC South.

After dominating the competition with four consecutive division titles, capped by an elusive Super Bowl ring, the Indianapolis Colts now face increased traffic in their rearview mirror.

Objects are closer than they might appear.

There's the Jacksonville Jaguars, whose second-ranked NFL defense always keeps it in contention, despite instability at quarterback.

Tennessee, which won the initial AFC South title in 2002, the first year of NFL realignment, finished 4-2 against the division and won six of seven games down the stretch. Quarterback Vince Young has ignited the whole franchise.

And don't forget Houston, where Coach Gary Kubiak, a tireless talent evaluator, has found his quarterback in former Atlanta backup Matt Schaub.

The Colts lost three in a row on the road to their division rivals down the stretch, falling by three to the Titans and Texans and getting blown out 44-17 by Jacksonville.

Still, the back-yard beatings might have been what propelled the Colts over the hump in the playoffs. They ran through four teams, including nemesis New England, and Coach Tony Dungy credited the tougher regular-season games for making his team playoff-ready.

The Indy defense held two of four postseason opponents to 10 or fewer points (the Bears' first Super Bowl touchdown came on Devin Hester's kickoff return), but Indianapolis lost several key players from that side of the ball. It will have to replace outside linebacker Cato June, cornerbacks Nick Harper and Jason David and tackle Montae Reagor, all starters.

Of course, Indianapolis is all about offense—and General Manager Bill Polian and Dungy kept it strong with their first two draft picks, adding a potentially strong third wide receiver in Ohio State's Anthony Gonzalez and trading up to No. 42 overall to take Arkansas offensive tackle Tony Ugoh. Truly, the best defense in Indianapolis might really be the offense.

Like Indianapolis, Jacksonville, consistently the division's second-best team the past few seasons, strengthened its strength in the draft, taking Florida safety Reggie Nelson and Hampton linebacker Justin Durant with its first two picks.

In addition to finishing behind only Baltimore in total defense, the Jags were fourth against the run and 10th against the pass.

Still, Jacksonville is not altogether shabby offensively. It was a strong No. 3 in rushing but 24th in passing. Part of the problem has been instability at quarterback, where Byron Leftwich, though injured and apparently thrown on the trash heap in favor of David Garrard, has been named the starter again by Coach Jack Del Rio. In running backs Fred Taylor (1,146 yards) and rookie find Maurice Jones-Drew (941 yards, 13 rushing TDs), the Jaguars have a running game that eats clock and keeps their strong defense well rested. Jacksonville had a 32:11-27:49 edge in possession time last season.

The Titans were criticized for not taking quarterback Matt Leinart with the No. 3 overall pick in 2006, which would have reunited him with his former USC offensive coordinator, Norm Chow. Young, however, was the pick, and all he did was electrify the franchise with four fourth-quarter comeback victories—including a 39-yard overtime run for a touchdown in his hometown of Houston.

Despite all of the attention paid to Young and cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones, the Titans have gone about quietly rebuilding what had been a traditionally strong team. Jones, suspended for one season by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell for his string of off-field transgressions, will be missed on defense and special teams. The Titans are hoping to get some of that pop in both areas from first-round pick Michael Griffin, the former University of Texas safety.

Tennessee and Indianapolis have their quarterbacks. Jacksonville's giving its former first-round pick in Leftwich another chance. Houston finally pulled the plug on David Carr after five years. Not that Carr had a lot of help from his offense line; he was sacked 249 times and is now with the Carolina Panthers.

In Schaub, Kubiak is placing confidence in a quarterback with just two NFL starts in three seasons as Michael Vick's backup. Kubiak wanted a more vocal leader under center and thought Carr had been beaten up as much mentally as physically to be effective.

The Texans paid a high price for Schaub, but are trying to surround him with better talent. Including the quarterback, as many as seven other new starters could line up on Houston's offense.

For the third year in a row, the Texans drafted a defensive lineman in the first round, grabbing former University of Louisville tackle Amobi Okoye at No. 10. He should help free up the No. 1 overall pick in 2006, end Mario Williams, to increase his sack total of 4.5 as a rookie. Then there's Travis Johnson, the team's first pick in 2005 who's trying to come back from the injured-reserve list and claim a starting job.

There's a lot of talent up and down the Houston roster, and the Texans, like the Titans and Jaguars (both 8-8 last year), are looking to improve on their 6-10 finish.

STEVE BEYER

**3** The division is improving. Indianapolis has won four consecutive AFC South titles, but such dominance is almost impossible to sustain in the NFL. Tennessee and Houston are closing the gap, while Jacksonville is always strong with its second-ranked defense. In fact, the Colts have lost their last three division games.

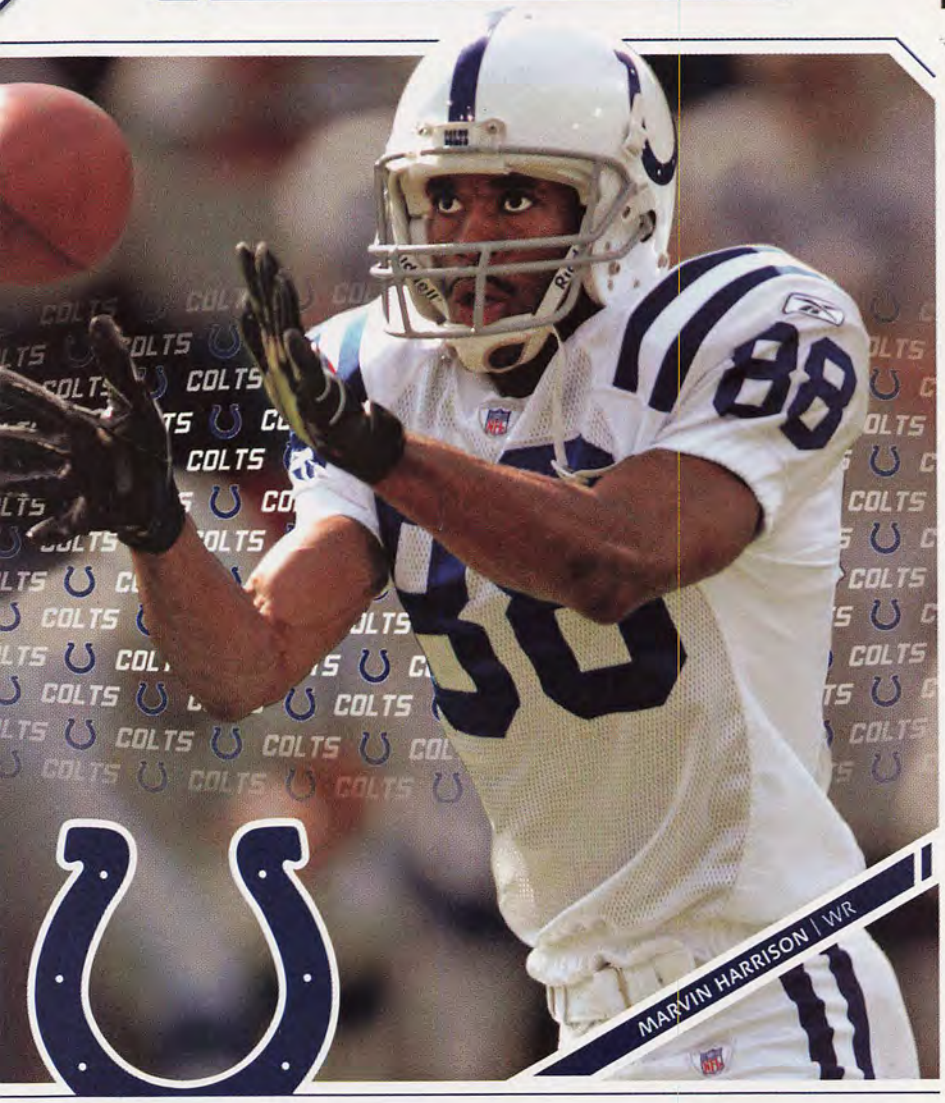
**4** Jacksonville has a great running game with Fred Taylor and second-year discovery Maurice Jones-Drew. Quarterback Byron Leftwich will get another chance to start, but he and a series of first-round receiver busts need to provide some balance through the air for the Jaguars to make a playoff run.

**5** There's a new "Carr" in Houston's garage. Gone is David Carr, whom fans and Coach Gary Kubiak had lost faith in, and in comes former Atlanta backup Matt Schaub. He doesn't move as well as Carr, and if the Texans' offensive line doesn't pass block better, Schaub won't have any more success than Carr did.

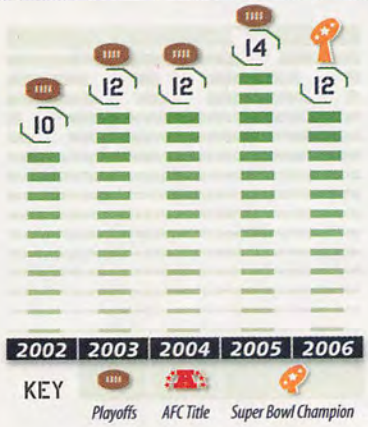
# INDIANAPOLIS 1

## AFC SOUTH

2006 Record: 12-4
www.colts.com
RCA DOME
Capacity: 57,890 Turf: Artificial
Tickets: 317-297-7000




### 5-YEAR WINS TREND




## Now comes the hard part

With Super Bowl success comes free-agent loss, so the Colts had their hands full this offseason trying to plug the holes, especially on defense.

A year ago, Indianapolis Colts Coach Tony Dungy had to explain a 14-2 season that ended with a home playoff loss to wild-card Pittsburgh.

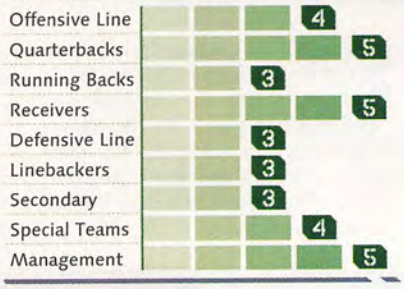
This past season, the Colts won the franchise's first Super Bowl since 1971, but a string of free-agent defections by starters—especially on defense—find Dungy having to talk about whether his team can repeat not only as league champions but as AFC South title-holders.

Neither task will be easy, given the personnel losses and off-field behavior

### PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Peyton Manning |
| FB | Ben Utecht |
| RB | Joseph Addai |
| LT | Tarik Glenn |
| LG | Ryan Lilja |
| C | Jeff Saturday |
| RG | Jake Scott |
| RT | Ryan Diem |
| TE | Dallas Clark |
| WR | Reggie Wayne |
| WR | Marvin Harrison |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Robert Mathis |
| LT | Anthony McFarland |
| RT | Raheem Brock |
| RE | Dwight Freeney |
| LLB | Rob Morris |
| MLB | Gary Brackett |
| RLB | Freddy Keiaho |
| LCB | Kelvin Hayden |
| RCB | Marlin Jackson |
| SS | Antoine Bethea |
| FS | Bob Sanders |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Hunter Smith |
| K | Adam Vinatieri |
| PR | Terrence Wilkins |
| KR | Terrence Wilkins |

### POWER RATINGS




### COLTS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Marvin Harrison** (1996-present) — *An unbelievable 1,022 catches so far, with 122 going for touchdowns.*
2. **Raymond Berry** (1955-67) — *Precise route-runner had 68 touchdowns and 631 receptions during his time as Johnny Unitas' favorite receiver.*
3. **Jimmy Orr** (1961-70) — *Fifty career touchdown receptions in 303 catches for Colts.*

STEVE JACOBSON

issues that occurred immediately after the Colts' victory in Super Bowl XLI over Chicago.

The Colts won their fourth consecutive division crown with a 12-4 overall mark in 2006, followed by a 4-0 run through the postseason.

But where Indianapolis had gone 16-2 in the previous three seasons against Houston, Jacksonville and Tennessee, the Colts lost their last three games in a row to their division opponents—all away from the RCA Dome—to finish 3-3 against those rivals.

And with Vince Young revitalizing the Tennessee franchise, Houston relentlessly making changes in search of the right combination of players and coaches and Jacksonville possessing one of the NFL's top defenses, Indianapolis will face a major challenge close to home in 2007.

In five seasons at Indianapolis, Dungy is 23-7 against the division, and the only year he didn't win the AFC South was his first with the Colts (2002), when they were 4-2 against the division but lost the mini-pennant to Tennessee.

"It's never that we were dominating, but we were always able to win those games and go 5-1 or 6-0, and that really helped us," Dungy says. "[But] we lost three times on the road this year. That's a concern, knowing the division is tightening up, and you've got good coaches [and] tremendous talent coming into the division."

Still, Dungy believes the three consecutive losses on the road to division rivals prepared his team for the level of top competition in the postseason. Indianapolis was especially sharp in the two opening AFC playoff games, limiting Kansas City and Baltimore to a combined 14 points. Then, in the Super Bowl, the Indianapolis defense limited Chicago to 10 offensive points and 11 first downs while forcing five turnovers.

Indianapolis has lost three starters on defense and two top defensive backups in free agency. Gone are linebacker Cato June (signed by Tampa Bay), their leading tackler in 2006; cornerback Nick Harper (Tennessee), who tied June for the team lead with three interceptions; and cornerback Jason David (New Orleans), who started opposite Harper for all 16 games last season. The Colts declined to match the frontloaded offer sheet David signed with the Saints as a restricted free agent.

In addition, safety Mike Doss went to Minnesota and defensive tackle Montae Reagor, who started six games, signed with Philadelphia.

Asked in late March at the league's annual meeting if he expected to have his roster raided, Dungy laughed and said, "I think we already did. We are always going to be a team that lives through the draft. We felt like once we won, people were going to want some of those guys even more."

The losses were not confined to the defense. Offensively, starting tailback Dominic Rhodes signed with the Raiders, while wide receiver Brandon Stokley, quarterback Peyton Manning's closest friend on the team, was talked out of retirement to sign with Denver. The Colts used their first-round pick on Ohio State wide receiver Anthony Gonzalez and traded up in the second round to get University of Arkansas offensive tackle Tony Ugoh.

## DRAFT REPORT

After losing Brandon Stokley in free agency, **Anthony Gonzalez** was selected at the end of Round One to play the slot. Although he lacks the speed of former teammate Ted Ginn Jr., Gonzalez understands how to play the position, runs precise routes, has very reliable hands and shows some run-after-the-catch ability. In a surprise move, the Colts gave up a first-round pick in 2008 to San Francisco to move up in the second round, selecting OT **Tony Ugoh**. The former Razorback will be groomed to replace Tarik Glenn at left tackle. **Daymeion Hughes** was downgraded due to the lack of speed, but knows how to play the game and will eventually compete for a starting spot. Defensive tackle **Quinn Pitcock** is another underrated prospect who works hard, fills a position of need and will compete for the starting job next to Anthony McFarland. **Roy Hall** was overshadowed by Ginn and Gonzalez at WR, but has rare 4.4 40-speed for a 6-3, 240-pound receiver. Safety **Brannon Condren**, OLB **Clint Session**, CB **Michael Coe** and DT **Keyunta Dawson** will compete for spots on the practice squad next season.

**GRADE B+**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 32 | Gonzalez, Anthony | WR | 6-0 | 195 | Ohio State |
| 2 | 10 | Ugoh, Tony | G | 6-5 | 305 | Arkansas |
| 3 | 32 | Hughes, Daymeion | CB | 6-2 | 188 | California |
| 3 | 35 | Pitcock, Quinn | DT | 6-3 | 295 | Ohio State |
| 4 | 32 | Condren, Brannon | S | 6-1 | 205 | Troy |
| 4 | 37 | Session, Clint | LB | 6-0 | 235 | Pittsburgh |
| 5 | 32 | Hall, Roy | WR | 6-3 | 240 | Ohio State |
| 5 | 36 | Coe, Michael | CB | 6-1 | 188 | Alabama State |
| 7 | 32 | Dawson, Keyunta | DE | 6-3 | 254 | Texas Tech |

## THE BOOK ON ...

**Dallas Clark** *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"There are a lot of good tight ends in the league, but when you see how he has progressed ... he has become a force blocking the perimeter that he wasn't. He has been a big part of their success running the ball.

"Clark forces defenses to make the decision of whether to play him like a wide receiver with your nickel package or leave your base defense and bigger people in there. He has great hands. He is really athletic and fights you for the ball. He allows them to use a three-receiver set without bringing in a third wide receiver."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. *New Orleans*
SEPT. 6 | 8:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 2** @ *Tennessee*
SEPT. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 3** @ *Houston*
SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 4** vs. *Denver*
SEPT. 30 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 5** vs. *Tampa Bay*
OCT. 7 | 4:05
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 6** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 7** @ *Jacksonville*
OCT. 22 | 8:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 8** @ *Carolina*
OCT. 28 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 9** vs. *New England*
NOV. 4 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 10** @ *San Diego*
NOV. 11 | 8:15

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*The defending champs have a brutal schedule, highlighted by this matchup with the Chargers that comes a week after a home game against New England.*

W SCORE
L

**WEEK 11** vs. *Kansas City*
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 12** @ *Atlanta*
NOV. 22 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 13** vs. *Jacksonville*
DEC. 2 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 14** @ *Baltimore*
DEC. 9 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 15** @ *Oakland*
DEC. 16 | 4:05
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 16** vs. *Houston*
DEC. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 17** vs. *Tennessee*
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 26-21 | at New York |
| 09/17 | W | 43-24 | Houston |
| 09/24 | W | 21-14 | Jacksonville |
| 10/01 | W | 31-28 | at New York Jets |
| 10/08 | W | 14-13 | Tennessee |
| 10/22 | W | 36-22 | Washington |
| 10/29 | W | 34-31 | at Denver |
| 11/05 | W | 27-20 | at New England |
| 11/12 | W | 17-16 | Buffalo |
| 11/19 | L | 14-21 | at Dallas |
| 11/26 | W | 45-21 | Philadelphia |
| 12/03 | L | 17-20 | at Tennessee |
| 12/10 | L | 17-44 | at Jacksonville |
| 12/18 | W | 34-16 | Cincinnati |
| 12/24 | L | 24-27 | at Houston |
| 12/31 | W | 27-22 | Miami |

**WON 12, LOST 4**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Addai | 226 | 1081 | 4.8 | 41 | 7 |
| Rhodes | 187 | 641 | 3.4 | 17 | 5 |
| Manning | 23 | 36 | 1.6 | 12 | 4 |
| Carthon | 3 | 4 | 1.3 | 3 | 1 |
| **Colts** | 439 | 1762 | 4.0 | 41 | 17 |
| **Opponents** | 519 | 2768 | 5.3 | 76 | 20 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harrison | 95 | 1366 | 14.4 | 68t | 12 |
| Wayne | 86 | 1310 | 15.2 | 51t | 9 |
| Addai | 40 | 325 | 8.1 | 21t | 1 |
| Utecht | 37 | 377 | 10.2 | 26 | 0 |
| Rhodes | 36 | 251 | 7.0 | 27 | 0 |
| Clark | 30 | 367 | 12.2 | 40 | 4 |
| Fletcher | 18 | 202 | 11.2 | 26 | 2 |
| Stokley | 8 | 85 | 10.6 | 23 | 1 |
| Moorehead | 8 | 82 | 10.3 | 36 | 1 |
| Proehl | 3 | 30 | 10.0 | 13 | 0 |
| Klecko | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2t | 1 |
| **Colts** | 362 | 4397 | 12.1 | 68t | 31 |
| **Opponents** | 266 | 2705 | 10.2 | 46 | 16 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manning | 557 | 362 | 4397 | 31 | 9 |
| **Colts** | 557 | 362 | 4397 | 31 | 9 |
| **Opponents** | 415 | 266 | 2705 | 16 | 15 |

**SACKS**

Mathias 9.5, Freeney 5.5, Brock 3, McFarland 2.5, June 1, Reagor 1, Thomas 1, Schobel 0.5

**COLTS 25, OPPONENTS 15**

> He's done it, he's gotten it behind him. I don't think there's anything you can say now, other than this guy [Peyton Manning] is a Hall-of-Fame player and one of the greatest players to ever play the game.
>
> —Coach Tony Dungy on Peyton Manning and Indianapolis winning Super Bowl XLI

At press time, the Colts had signed only three free agents, the most significant being guard Rick DeMulling, a former starter in Indianapolis who had been with Detroit.

"The young guys you have, [they] have to be prepared to step in," Dungy says.

With the departure of June, Harper, David and Doss, the Colts lose 10 of their 15 interceptions from last season.

And without Harper and David at cornerback, the Colts could be left with their top two picks in the 2005 draft, Marlin Jackson and Kelvin Hayden, as the probable first-team players this season.

Jackson, who has seen playing time at cornerback and safety, had a game-clinching interception of New England's Tom Brady in last season's AFC Championship Game. Hayden, a Chicago native, had a 56-yard interception return for a touchdown in the Super Bowl XLI win against the Bears. The nickel back could end up being second-year cornerback Tim Jennings, who saw very little action as a rookie, though he had been the team's second-round pick from the University of Georgia.

Dungy will be looking at one of two young draft picks—or a combination of two—to play the weakside position vacated by June. The Colts are high on Freddy Keiaho, a rookie in 2006 who played in 14 games and had nine tackles and two forced fumbles.

The Colts received a boost from a young player in 2006 when rookie Antoine Bethea from Howard University ended up starting 14 games at both free and strong safety. Bethea was third on the defense with 105 tackles and started in the Super Bowl opposite free safety Bob Sanders. Sanders, pound-for-pound the team's top defensive player, played in only four regular-season games but performed well in all four playoff games, producing 22 tackles and two interceptions. A healthy season from Sanders would help improve the run defense.

The secondary is not the problem, per se. The Colts were second in the NFL against the pass last season, but part of the reason was opposing offenses didn't have to throw much against Indianapolis. The Colts ranked dead last in run defense at 173 yards a game, giving up 5.2 yards per carry.

In Indianapolis, the best defense has always been offense. Though the Colts actually had an average time of possession disadvantage (30:28 to 29:32), they put a great deal of pressure on opposing defenses and the other team's offense because they score so many points (427 in 2006).

The Colts handled the free-agent loss of tailback Edgerrin James to Arizona

### DID YOU KNOW

In 2006, Peyton Manning became the second quarterback to throw for more than 30 touchdowns (31) and have fewer than 10 interceptions (9) in a season. Philadelphia's Donovan McNabb had 31 touchdowns and eight interceptions in 2004.

The Colts were the first team in NFL history to allow an average of 173.0 rushing yards a game and still make the playoffs. Prior to 2006, the 1981 Seattle Seahawks were the winningest team to give up at least 173.0 yards per game on the ground, going 6-10.

Indianapolis converted 105 of 187 third-down attempts, a 56.1 percent success rate that was the league's best single-season mark since 1981. The Colts also made a first down through the air 241 times for the third-highest single-season mark since 1991, trailing the 2000 St. Louis Rams (247) and 1994 New England Patriots (243). The Colts' Marvin Harrison (78) and Reggie Wayne (72) had the most first-down receptions in the NFL last year.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**JOSEPH ADDAI**
running back

Running back Joseph Addai didn't start one regular-season game, yet was the team's leading rusher as a rookie. With Dominic Rhodes gone, expect Addai to get more of the work and pile up even bigger numbers. He's a younger version of Edgerrin James.

### NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 379.4 | 3 | Total Defense | 332.3 | 21 |
| Rushing | 110.1 | 18 | Against Rush | 173.0 | 32 |
| Passing | 269.3 | 2 | Against Pass | 159.3 | 2 |
| Scoring | 427 | 2t | Points Allowed | 360 | 23 |
| Punt Returns | 9.0 | 13 | Interceptions | 15 | 20t |
| Kick Returns | 23.6 | 7 | Sacks | 25 | 30t |
| Red Zone TD % | 66.1 | 2 | Turnover Diff. | +7 | 6t |

**FIRST DOWNS**

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 376 | 112 | 241 | 23 |

**RED ZONE OFFENSE**

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 62 | 334 | 41 | 16 |

**TOUCHDOWNS**

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | 31 | 1 | 1 |

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Colts)*

"They still have a lot of good players, but they lost a lot of guys on defense—Nick Harper, Cato June, Mike Doss. But the thing about them that makes them successful is their team concept, especially on offense. ...

"They kept playing their defense but just played it better at the end of the season. [Safety] Bob Sanders makes a huge difference. He makes everybody around him better. But there are some holes on that defense now because of the people they lost. At the same time, they keep getting production out of the young players they bring along."

after the 2005 season quite well. They drafted Joseph Addai from LSU and, though Rhodes was the starter in all 16 games, Addai led the offense with 1,081 rushing yards and four rushing touchdowns. He also caught 40 passes with a touchdown and blocked well in the passing game.

The sense in Indianapolis is that as long as Manning is playing quarterback (he has started all 144 regular-season games in his nine-year career) and can throw to wide receivers Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne, the Colts will be fine. And, to a point, those fans and pundits are correct. Manning threw for 4,397 yards and 31 touchdowns last year, against just nine interceptions. Harrison and Wayne combined for 181 receptions, 2,676 yards and 21 scores. Manning has a 60-20 regular-season record with Dungy as the Colts' coach.

Still, cracks are showing. Some players found trouble after the Super Bowl, and the question is a fair one: Can even a team as talented as the Colts, especially on offense, compensate for the heavy free-agent losses and develop enough young players simultaneously to fill the holes?

Those questions will be answered once the season starts. But the off-field problems were uncharacteristic for a Dungy-coached team.

It's fair to say the Colts haven't handled their success well. Four Indianapolis players were arrested in the first two months of the offseason, including cornerback Dexter Reid, who was waived, and Rhodes.

Reserve defensive tackle Darrell Reid was picked up on three changes stemming from marijuana possession and being uncooperative with police, while backup running back DeDe Dorsey was arrested for not having a permit for his gun when he was stopped in January.

**FINAL GRADE**

**93**

**STOCK REPORT**

**DOWN**

## THE COUNT

**31-9**

The Colts' record when Dwight Freeney contributes at least half a sack. His 5.5 sacks last season were half of his previous single-season low of 11.

**1**

The rank of Peyton Manning among quarterbacks in passing yards and touchdowns through the first nine years of a career.

**150.3**

The average rushing yards the Colts allowed a game in the four regular-season contests in which Bob Sanders played, 22.7 yards fewer than their average for the season. Sanders appeared in all four playoff games, when the Colts gave up an average of 82.8 rushing yards.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Rick DeMulling,** OG (DET)

*The Colts lost a lot of players and had signed only three unrestricted free agents at press time, highlighted by former Colts starting left guard Rick DeMulling, who returns after a stint with the Lions.*

- John Navarre, QB (ARI)
- Mike Seidman, TE (CAR)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Dominic Rhodes, RB (OAK)
- Nick Harper, CB (TEN)
- Cato June, LB (TB)
- Brandon Stokley, WR (DEN)
- Montae Reagor, DE (PHI)
- Mike Doss, DB (MIN)
- Jason David, CB (NO)
- Gilbert Gardner, LB (TEN)

## COLTS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Betts, Josh QB | 6-2 | 217 | 08/25/1982 | 0 | Miami (OH) |
| 18 | Manning, Peyton QB | 6-5 | 230 | 03/24/1976 | 9 | Tennessee |
| 16 | Navarre, John QB | 6-6 | 243 | 09/09/1980 | 2 | Michigan |
| 12 | Sorgi, Jim QB | 6-5 | 196 | 12/03/1980 | 3 | Wisconsin |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 62 | Bimper, Albert C | 6-0 | 300 | 07/26/1983 | 0 | Colorado State |
| 64 | DeMulling, Rick G | 6-4 | 304 | 07/21/1977 | 6 | Idaho |
| 71 | Diem, Ryan T | 6-6 | 320 | 07/01/1979 | 6 | Northern Illinois |
| 76 | Federkeil, Daniel T | 6-6 | 290 | 11/09/1983 | 1 | Calgary |
| 57 | Gandy, Dylan G | 6-3 | 302 | 03/08/1982 | 2 | Texas Tech |
| 78 | Glenn, Tarik T | 6-5 | 332 | 05/25/1976 | 10 | California |
| 74 | Johnson, Charlie T | 6-4 | 305 | 05/02/1984 | 1 | Oklahoma State |
| 65 | Lilja, Ryan G | 6-2 | 290 | 10/15/1981 | 3 | Kansas State |
| 63 | Saturday, Jeff C | 6-2 | 295 | 06/18/1975 | 8 | North Carolina |
| 73 | Scott, Jake G | 6-5 | 295 | 04/16/1981 | 3 | Idaho |
| 75 | Toudouze, Michael T | 6-6 | 303 | 04/27/1983 | 0 | TCU |
| 69 | Ulrich, Matt G | 6-2 | 309 | 12/30/1981 | 2 | Northwestern |
| 66 | Wilder, Sam T | 6-5 | 295 | 01/10/1982 | 0 | Colorado |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29 | Addai, Joseph RB | 5-11 | 214 | 05/03/1983 | 1 | LSU |
| 25 | Dorsey, DeDe RB | 5-11 | 196 | 08/01/1984 | 1 | Lindenwood |
| 44 | Lawton, Luke RB | 5-11 | 237 | 08/26/1980 | 1 | McNeese State |

| # | RECEIVERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 80 | Aromashodu, Devin WR | 6-2 | 202 | 05/23/1984 | 0 | Auburn |
| 44 | Clark, Dallas TE | 6-3 | 252 | 06/12/1979 | 4 | Iowa |
| 81 | Fletcher, Bryan TE | 6-5 | 230 | 03/23/1979 | 2 | UCLA |
| 88 | Harrison, Marvin WR | 6-0 | 185 | 08/25/1972 | 11 | Syracuse |
| | Seidman, Mike TE | 6-4 | 261 | 02/11/1981 | 4 | UCLA |
| 48 | Snow, Justin TE | 6-3 | 240 | 12/21/1976 | 7 | Baylor |
| 84 | Standeford, John WR | 6-4 | 206 | 04/15/1982 | 0 | Purdue |
| 15 | Thorpe, Craphonso WR | 6-1 | 188 | 06/27/1983 | 0 | Florida State |
| 86 | Utecht, Ben TE | 6-6 | 251 | 06/30/1981 | 2 | Minnesota |
| 87 | Wayne, Reggie WR | 6-0 | 198 | 11/17/1978 | 6 | Miami (FL) |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 79 | Brock, Raheem DE | 6-4 | 274 | 06/10/1978 | 5 | Temple |
| 93 | Freeney, Dwight DE | 6-1 | 268 | 02/19/1980 | 5 | Syracuse |
| 90 | Klecko, Dan DT | 5-11 | 275 | 01/12/1981 | 4 | Temple |
| 99 | LaCasse, Ryan DE | 6-2 | 257 | 02/06/1983 | 1 | Syracuse |
| 98 | Mathis, Robert DE | 6-2 | 245 | 02/26/1981 | 4 | Alabama A&M |
| 92 | McFarland, Anthony DT | 6-0 | 300 | 12/18/1977 | 8 | LSU |
| 95 | Reid, Darrell DT | 6-2 | 288 | 06/20/1982 | 2 | Minnesota |
| 96 | Schobel, Bo DE | 6-5 | 264 | 03/24/1981 | 3 | TCU |
| 91 | Thomas, Josh DE | 6-5 | 271 | 06/26/1981 | 3 | Syracuse |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 41 | Bethea, Antoine S | 5-11 | 203 | 07/07/1984 | 1 | Howard |
| 39 | Davis, Tanard CB | 5-9 | 184 | 01/27/1983 | 0 | Miami (FL) |
| 43 | Giordano, Matt S | 5-11 | 192 | 10/16/1982 | 2 | California |
| 26 | Hayden, Kelvin CB | 6-0 | 195 | 07/23/1983 | 2 | Illinois |
| 28 | Jackson, Marlin CB | 6-0 | 196 | 06/30/1983 | 2 | Michigan |
| 27 | Jennings, Tim CB | 5-8 | 185 | 12/24/1983 | 1 | Georgia |
| 34 | Rushing, T.J. CB | 5-9 | 186 | 06/08/1983 | 1 | Stanford |
| 21 | Sanders, Bob S | 5-8 | 206 | 02/24/1981 | 3 | Iowa |

| # | LINEBACKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | Boiman, Rocky LB | 6-4 | 236 | 01/24/1980 | 5 | Notre Dame |
| 58 | Brackett, Gary LB | 5-11 | 235 | 05/23/1980 | 4 | Rutgers |
| 56 | Hagler, Tyjuan LB | 6-0 | 236 | 12/03/1981 | 1 | Cincinnati |
| 54 | Keiaho, Freddy LB | 5-11 | 226 | 12/18/1982 | 1 | San Diego State |
| 94 | Morris, Rob LB | 6-2 | 243 | 01/18/1975 | 7 | Brigham Young |
| 53 | O'Neil, Keith LB | 6-0 | 240 | 08/26/1980 | 4 | Northern Arizona |

| # | KICKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | Hodges, Reggie P | 6-0 | 226 | 04/18/1984 | 1 | Ball State |
| 17 | Smith, Hunter P | 6-2 | 209 | 08/09/1977 | 8 | Notre Dame |
| 4 | Vinatieri, Adam K | 6-0 | 202 | 12/28/1972 | 11 | South Dakota St. |

**TONY DUNGY,** HEAD COACH

**Jim Caldwell,** asst. head coach/quarterbacks; **Clyde Christensen,** wide receivers; **Gene Huey,** running backs; **Ron Meeks,** def. coord.; **Tom Moore,** off. coord.; **Howard Mudd,** off. line; **Mike Murphy,** linebackers; **Rod Perry,** secondary; **Russ Purnell,** special teams; **John Teerlinck,** def. line; **Ricky Thomas,** tight ends; **Alan Williams,** def. backs

# JACKSONVILLE 2

**AFC SOUTH**

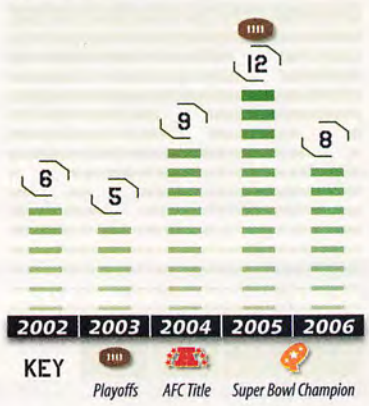
- 2006 Record: 8-8

www.jaguars.com

- ALLTEL STADIUM

Capacity: 76,877 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 904-633-2000

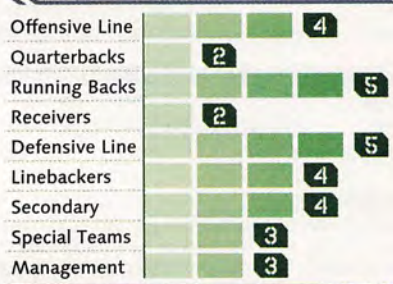
## 5-YEAR WINS TREND




## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Byron Leftwich |
| FB | Greg Jones |
| RB | Fred Taylor |
| LT | Khalif Barnes |
| LG | Vince Manuwai |
| C | Brad Meester |
| RG | Chris Naeole |
| RT | Tony Pashos |
| TE | Jermaine Wiggins |
| WR | Reggie Williams |
| WR | Matt Jones |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Paul Spicer |
| LT | Marcus Stroud |
| RT | John Henderson |
| RE | Reggie Hayward |
| LLB | Daryl Smith |
| MLB | Mike Peterson |
| RLB | Nick Greisen |
| LCB | Rashean Mathis |
| RCB | Brian Williams |
| SS | Donovin Darius |
| FS | Reggie Nelson |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Adam Podlesh |
| K | Josh Scobee |
| PR | Dennis Northcutt |
| KR | Maurice Jones-Drew |

## POWER RATINGS




## The missing ingredient

With Byron Leftwich named the starter heading into the 2007 season, Jacksonville can only hope its passing game catches up to the rest of its offense.

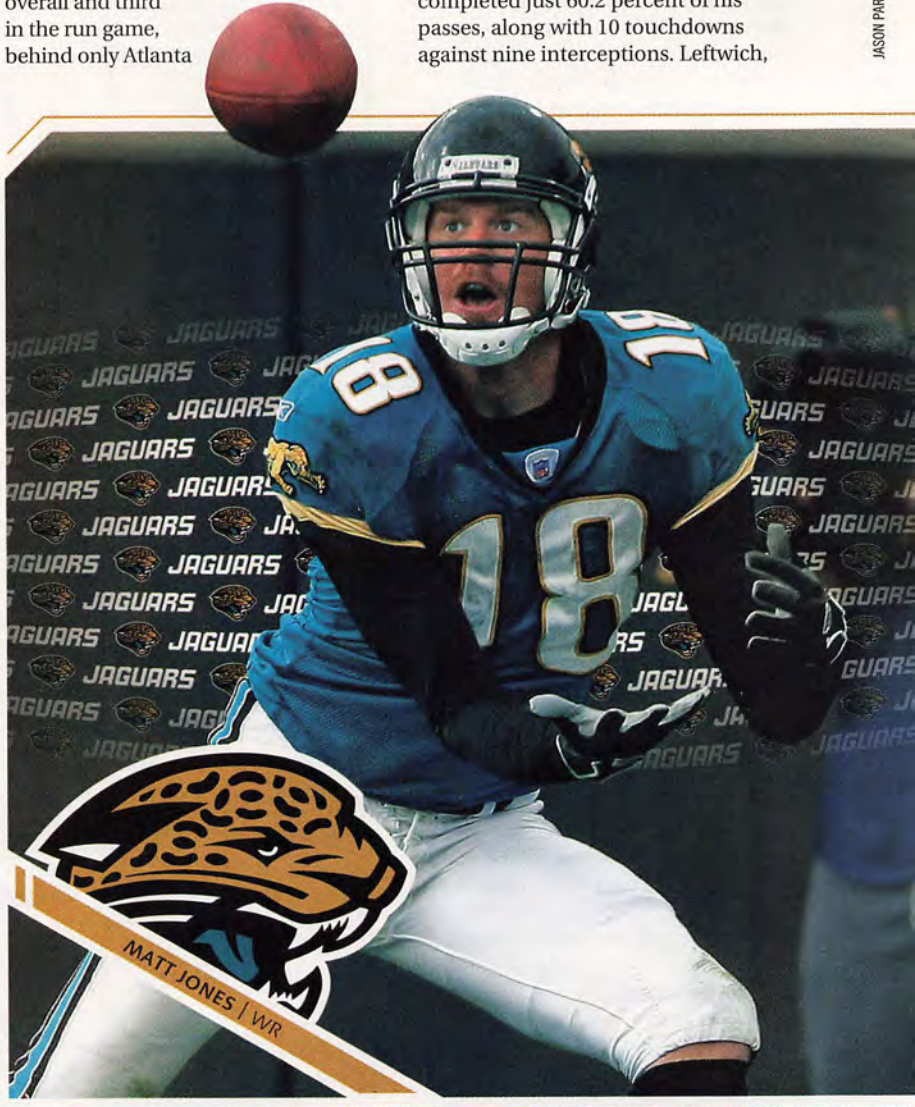
Across six columns in the 2006 NFL statistics booklet, teams are ranked in yards gained and yards allowed. And from that, it's easy to see the Jacksonville Jaguars have one of the league's most impressive lines.

Defensively, they were ranked second overall in 2006; only Baltimore was statistically better. The Jaguars were fourth against the run and 10th against the pass.

Offensively, Jacksonville was 10th overall and third in the run game, behind only Atlanta and San Diego. Just one area of weakness is shown in the six categories—pass offense. The Jaguars were 24th, the result of an unsettled quarterback situation and problems with receivers.

Because of an ankle injury, former first-round pick Byron Leftwich started just six games. Backup David Garrard started 10 games with 11 overall appearances. Neither quarterback lit up the passing game.

Garrard threw for 1,735 yards and completed just 60.2 percent of his passes, along with 10 touchdowns against nine interceptions. Leftwich,




JASON PARKHURST / US PRESSWIRE

## THE BOOK ON ... *Rashean Mathis* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Rashean is a tremendous, big-time player. At corner or safety, he plays well. He is a big, strong cornerback. He is physical out there, and he can get his hands on the ball.

"He's always around the ball. He had a lot of interceptions [eight] and passes defensed [12]. Great ball skills. He will come up and tackle against the run [56 solo tackles in 2006]. He's a good technique player. They can do a lot of different things with their secondary because players like Rashean are so versatile. They get a lot out of him [16 starts]."

who ended the season on injured reserve, threw for 1,159 yards, seven touchdowns and five interceptions, completing 59.0 percent of his passes.

Instead of opening up a QB battle, Coach Jack Del Rio surprisingly announced in February that Leftwich was his starter. Leftwich eschewed the team's offseason strength and conditioning program, instead choosing to work with a personal trainer in south Florida.

"Really, in the five years I've been here since we've selected him, he has been our starting quarterback; since Mark Brunell was injured, Byron has been our quarterback," Del Rio says. "The biggest thing for the team to understand [is] the direction we're taking. We really don't want to have a circus atmosphere."

Leftwich is entering the final year of his rookie contract, and the Jaguars might be betting that he will have a career season in order to score a big deal as an unrestricted free agent. In four seasons, Leftwich has missed 18 games, but started 44 of the 46 contests in which he has appeared. As a starter, Leftwich's record is 24-20 and he has thrown for a total of 51 touchdowns and 36 interceptions, completing 58.7 percent of his passes in his career.

However, health is a concern for Leftwich, who has missed 15 of the past 21 regular-season games. In 2005, Leftwich had an 8-3 record as the starter, but then was placed on the inactive list for the final five regular-season contests with ankle problems. Also, an acknowledged lack of mobility has caused him to be sacked 76 times in 46 games. The Jaguars hope the addition of right tackle Tony Pashos, a former Ravens starter, will help the protection.

"Each of the last two years, we've had our starting quarterback on the sideline with an injury," Del Rio says. "One of the things that's lagged in our development as a football team is the passing game, and obviously the quarterback is a main cog in being able to develop a passing game."

That lack of development is the only aspect that may be keeping the Jags out of the playoffs and preventing them from challenging division kingpin Indianapolis. How can a team be 8-8 and outscore opponents by a composite score of 371-274? The 97-point differential was fifth best in the NFL.

The wide receivers haven't helped production in the passing game, either. After Leftwich was picked in 2003, the Jaguars' next three first-round selections were all pass catchers—wide receivers

### JAGUARS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Jimmy Smith** (1995-2005)
   *Recorded 862 career receptions for 12,287 yards and 67 touchdowns.*
2. **Keenan McCardell** (1996-2001)
   *An impressive running mate to Smith with 499 catches during his tenure with Jacksonville.*
3. **Reggie Williams** (2004-present)
   *Has 114 career catches, and showed signs of proving his first-round pick status with an impressive 2006 season.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**MARCEDES LEWIS**
tight end

He was the Jaguars' No. 1 draft pick in 2006 (28th overall), but his season was derailed by a recurring ankle injury. Lewis played in 15 games with three starts and had only 13 receptions.

### DID YOU KNOW

Jacksonville had the NFL's second-best defense in 2006, allowing just under 284 total yards a game.

Fred Taylor led the Jaguars in rushing last year for the seventh time in his nine NFL seasons, becoming the team's all-time leader with 9,513 yards. He is the 21st player in league history to have at least 9,000 rushing yards in his career.

The running back tandem of Fred Taylor (1,146 rushing yards) and Maurice Jones-Drew (941) finished second in the NFL with a combined 2,087 rushing yards. The duo just missed becoming the fourth pair of running backs on the same team to have 1,000 yards apiece with Cleveland being the last to accomplish the feat in 1985.

### THE COUNT

| 2,541 | 88 | 16 |
|---|---|---|
| Total rushing yards for the Jaguars' in 2006, ranking third in the NFL and setting a new franchise record. | Total points allowed by Jacksonville at home, the fewest in the NFL. | Touchdowns by Maurice Jones-Drew, the most by a rookie in 2006. |

## 2007 SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 | vs. *Tennessee* | SEPT. 9 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 2 | vs. *Atlanta* | SEPT. 16 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 3 | @ *Denver* | SEPT. 23 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 4 | *OPEN DATE* | | |
| WEEK 5 | @ *Kansas City* | OCT. 7 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 6 | vs. *Houston* | OCT. 14 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 7 | vs. *Indianapolis* | OCT. 22 | 8:30 |
| WEEK 8 | @ *Tampa Bay* | OCT. 28 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 9 | @ *New Orleans* | NOV. 4 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 10 | @ *Tennessee* | NOV. 11 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 11 | vs. *San Diego* | NOV. 18 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 12 | vs. *Buffalo* | NOV. 25 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 13 | @ *Indianapolis* | DEC. 2 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 14 | vs. *Carolina* | DEC. 9 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 15 | @ *Pittsburgh* | DEC. 16 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 16 | vs. *Oakland* | DEC. 23 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 17 | @ *Houston* | DEC. 30 | 1:00 |

W SCORE ▼ L

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*Jacksonville was only 2-4 against the AFC South in 2006. It lost twice to Houston and split with Tennessee and Indianapolis. The Jaguars get a chance to close the gap on the Super Bowl champions in this Monday night game.*

FERNANDO MEDINA / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 24-17 | Dallas |
| 09/18 | W | 9-0 | Pittsburgh |
| 09/24 | L | 14-21 | at Indianapolis |
| 10/01 | L | 30-36 | at Washington |
| 10/08 | W | 41-0 | New York Jets |
| 10/22 | L | 7-27 | at Houston |
| 10/29 | W | 13-6 | at Philadelphia |
| 11/05 | W | 37-7 | Tennessee |
| 11/12 | L | 10-13 | Houston |
| 11/20 | W | 26-10 | New York Giants |
| 11/26 | L | 24-27 | at Buffalo |
| 12/03 | W | 24-10 | at Miami |
| 12/10 | W | 44-17 | Indianapolis |
| 12/17 | L | 17-24 | at Tennessee |
| 12/24 | L | 21-24 | New England |
| 12/31 | L | 30-35 | at Kansas City |

**WON 8, LOST 8**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Taylor | 231 | 1146 | 5.0 | 76 | 5 |
| Jones-Drew | 166 | 941 | 5.7 | 74t | 13 |
| Garrard | 47 | 250 | 5.3 | 20 | 0 |
| Pearman | 19 | 89 | 4.7 | 12 | 1 |
| Leftwich | 25 | 41 | 1.6 | 7 | 2 |
| R. Williams | 7 | 33 | 4.7 | 10 | 0 |
| Gray | 2 | 26 | 13.0 | 17t | 2 |
| Toefield | 10 | 22 | 2.2 | 12 | 0 |
| Alexis | 3 | 5 | 1.7 | 3 | 0 |
| Wimbush | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| M. Jones | 2 | -15 | -7.5 | -6 | 0 |
| **Jaguars** | 513 | 2541 | 5.0 | 76 | 23 |
| **Opponents** | 420 | 1460 | 3.5 | 40 | 14 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R. Williams | 52 | 616 | 11.8 | 48 | 4 |
| Jones-Drew | 46 | 436 | 9.5 | 51t | 2 |
| M. Jones | 41 | 643 | 15.7 | 49 | 4 |
| Wrighster | 39 | 353 | 9.1 | 23 | 3 |
| Wilford | 36 | 524 | 14.6 | 41 | 2 |
| Taylor | 23 | 242 | 10.5 | 36 | 1 |
| Lewis | 13 | 126 | 9.7 | 31 | 1 |
| Hankton | 5 | 48 | 9.6 | 15 | 0 |
| Brady | 5 | 37 | 7.4 | 13 | 0 |
| Wimbush | 4 | 23 | 5.8 | 9 | 0 |
| Pearman | 2 | 12 | 6.0 | 7 | 0 |
| **Jaguars** | 266 | 3060 | 11.5 | 51t | 17 |
| **Opponents** | 294 | 3278 | 11.1 | 68t | 12 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Garrard | 241 | 145 | 1735 | 10 | 9 |
| Leftwich | 183 | 108 | 1159 | 7 | 5 |
| Gray | 22 | 13 | 166 | 0 | 0 |
| **Jaguars** | 446 | 266 | 3060 | 17 | 14 |
| **Opponents** | 523 | 294 | 3278 | 12 | 20 |

**SACKS**

McCray 10, Meier 5, Henderson 3.5, Smith 3, Spicer 3, Stroud 2.5, Hawkins 2, Pettway 2, Ingram 1.5, Carroll 1, Gilbert 1, McDaniel 1, Stanley 0.5

**JAGUARS 35, OPPONENTS 30**

## DRAFT REPORT

After losing Deon Grant in free agency, Jacksonville needed to fill the hole at free safety and did just that with the selection of **Reggie Nelson. Justin Durant** was the first non-I-A prospect selected (48th overall) and will provide depth at all three linebacker positions. The Jaguars really struggled last season to develop a lead receiver and waited until the third round to add **Mike Walker. Adam Podlesh** was the first punter selected and will replace Chris Hanson next year. **Brian Smith** is an OLB/DE 'tweener who missed most of his senior season with an injury, but showed outstanding pass-rush ability as an underclassman. Jacksonville traded three sixth-round picks to Atlanta to move up in the fifth round, where the Jags selected Purdue OG **Uche Nwaneri**. Safety **Josh Gattis** and DT **Derek Landri** were decent second-day picks who should make the opening day roster. Wide receiver **John Broussard**, OLB/S **Chad Nkang** and OT **Andrew Carnahan** will likely spend their rookie seasons on the practice squad. Given the struggles at quarterback and wide receiver in 2006, it was a shock the Jaguars did not do more to help those positions through the draft.

**GRADE C-**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 21 | Nelson, Reggie | S | 6-0 | 193 | Florida |
| 2 | 16 | Durant, Justin | LB | 6-2 | 230 | Hampton |
| 3 | 15 | Walker, Mike | WR | 6-2 | 200 | UCF |
| 4 | 2 | Podlesh, Adam | P | 6-0 | 192 | Maryland |
| 4 | 14 | Smith, Brian | DE | 6-4 | 230 | Missouri |
| 5 | 12 | Nwaneri, Uche | G | 6-3 | 300 | Purdue |
| 5 | 13 | Gattis, Josh | S | 6-1 | 212 | Wake Forest |
| 5 | 29 | Landri, Derek | DT | 6-3 | 277 | Notre Dame |
| 7 | 19 | Broussard, John | WR | 6-1 | 165 | San Jose State |
| 7 | 41 | Nkang, Chad | LB | 6-1 | 218 | Elon |
| 7 | 42 | Carnahan, Andrew | T | 6-8 | 287 | Arizona State |

Reggie Williams (2004) and Matt Jones (2005) and tight end Marcedes Lewis (2006). (The string of offensive players was snapped this year when Jacksonville took Florida safety Reggie Nelson in the first round.)

Williams finally delivered on some of his promise in 2006, his third NFL season. He had a team-high 52 receptions, but averaged just 11.8 yards and scored only four touchdowns. Jones had 41 catches, four for touchdowns. As a rookie last season, Lewis recorded only 13 receptions and one touchdown, missing one game and starting just three because of a lingering ankle injury. In the offseason, Kyle Brady, who started 14 games in 2006, left via free agency.

Ernest Wilford emerged as a starter last year with 36 receptions. In March, the Jaguars signed Dennis Northcutt to return punts and challenge for time as a receiver.

"We do not believe you get instant gratification by the selection of a rookie and plugging him into a spot," Del Rio says. "In many cases it takes some time for them to develop."

Jacksonville's running game remains one area that is not a problem. The Jaguars have one of the top rushing tandems in the NFL. In fact, only San Diego's one-two punch of LaDainian Tomlinson and Michael Turner was more productive than Fred Taylor and Maurice Jones-Drew. The Jags' duo rushed for a combined 2,087 yards and 18 touchdowns, and helped Jacksonville control the possession clock by a season count of 32:11-27:49.

Jones-Drew was a quality receiver out of the backfield. His 46 receptions ranked second on the team, and Jones-Drew finished third in the league with 16 total TDs (13 rushing, two receiving and one kick return).

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Jaguars)*

"[Byron] Leftwich has shown good arm strength, but he has been hurt by inconsistency and injuries. They are unsettled at quarterback, even now.

"They are a team with a lot of talented players. Everybody knows about their defense. It plays solid and keeps their team in a position to win a lot of games. They have an excellent run game with Fred Taylor and the rookie [Maurice Jones-Drew]. It would help if they could get consistency in the pass game. They've drafted a lot of wide receivers early in the draft and need more production from them."

Aside from the subpar passing game, another problem for Jacksonville is turnovers. The Jaguars were just plus-1 in turnover ratio (24-23). They lost nine of 16 fumbles and recovered just four of 12 from opponents.

On defense, cornerback Rashean Mathis was voted an AFC starter in the Pro Bowl after intercepting eight passes last season. He was a part of a unit that had some other stars—including defensive end Bobby McCray, who had 10 sacks—but was better for the sum of its parts than the individuals. Working behind a big, physical line that rarely gave ground, linebackers Daryl Smith (88 total) and Clint Ingram (71) posted impressive tackle totals.

However, the defense had a split personality.

In their eight home games, the Jaguars pitched a pair of shutouts (the Steelers and Jets) and gave up just 11.0 points per game, an NFL low. Jacksonville was 6-2 at home but 2-6 on the road, where it allowed 23.3 points a game.

Injuries played a part in the struggles, especially on defense, where middle linebacker Mike Peterson (torn pectoral muscle), end Reggie Hayward (torn Achilles' tendon) and safety Donovin Darius (broken ankle)—all starters—ended their seasons on injured reserve. The whole team suffered from a rash of hamstring injuries, prompting a change in offseason training, according to Del Rio.

Despite the somewhat unsettled situation at quarterback, Del Rio (now 34-30 in his four seasons in Jacksonville) says he thinks his team is on the verge of breaking through. And Del Rio may need to produce this season or start looking for a new gig. While they at one time won 15 of 19 regular-season games, the Jags have recorded wins in just six of their last 14 contests. Concerns remain about stability on the coaching staff, where Del Rio is now on his third offensive coordinator and third special teams coach.

"I think we're close," Del Rio says about the Jaguars' chances this season. "Each of the last two years, we've been able to defeat the team that went on to win the Super Bowl. That means you're able to beat the good teams."

What doomed Jacksonville last season were two losses to Houston, the AFC South's perennial doormat, suggesting Del Rio's team plays to the level of its competition.

"We'd like to think we're tightening things up," he says.

**FINAL GRADE**

**85**

**STOCK REPORT**

**UP**

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Dennis Northcutt**, WR (CLE)

*Still trying to get more production out of their receiving corps, the Jaguars overpaid to sign receiver/punt return man Dennis Northcutt from the Browns for $17 million over five years.*

- Tony Pashos, OT (BAL)
- Tony Yelk, K (ATL)
- Kevin McCadam, DB (CAR)
- Bruce Thornton, DB (SF)
- Jermaine Wiggins, TE (MIN)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Kyle Brady, TE (NE)
- Deon Grant, S (SEA)
- Cortez Hankton, WR (MIN)

> "When you look at the stats, when you're 24th in the league [in passing offense], you need improvement. I'm not saying I'm the key and I can do it all, but I'm part of the puzzle. Together we have to figure this out."
>
> *—free-agent signee Dennis Northcutt on helping the Jaguars' offense at wideout*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 338.9 | 10 |
| Rushing | 158.8 | 3 |
| Passing | 180.1 | 24 |
| Scoring | 371 | 9 |
| Punt Returns | 8.0 | 22 |
| Kick Returns | 23.2 | 12 |
| Red Zone TD % | 57.7 | 6t |
| Total Defense | 283.6 | 2 |
| Against Rush | 91.3 | 4 |
| Against Pass | 192.4 | 10 |
| Points Allowed | 274 | 4 |
| Interceptions | 20 | 6t |
| Sacks | 35 | 15t |
| Turnover Diff. | +1 | 15t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 293 | 127 | 147 | 19 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 52 | 251 | 30 | 14 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | 17 | 1 | 1 |

## JAGUARS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Garrard, David | QB | 6-1 | 240 | 02/14/1978 | 5 | East Carolina |
| 5 | Gray, Quinn | QB | 6-3 | 246 | 05/21/1979 | 2 | Florida A&M |
| 7 | Leftwich, Byron | QB | 6-5 | 242 | 01/14/1980 | 4 | Marshall |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 69 | Barnes, Khalif | T | 6-5 | 325 | 04/21/1982 | 2 | Washington |
| 76 | Collier, Richard | T | 6-7 | 358 | 10/23/1981 | 1 | Valdosta State |
| 61 | Connolly, Dan | G | 6-4 | 318 | 09/02/1982 | 1 | SE Missouri State |
| 67 | Manuwai, Vince | G | 6-2 | 325 | 07/12/1980 | 4 | Hawaii |
| 73 | McDougle, Stockar | T | 6-6 | 348 | 01/11/1977 | 7 | Oklahoma |
| 63 | Meester, Brad | C | 6-3 | 300 | 03/23/1977 | 7 | Northern Iowa |
| 65 | Naeole, Chris | G | 6-3 | 330 | 12/25/1974 | 10 | Colorado |
| 62 | Norman, Dennis | C | 6-5 | 323 | 01/26/1980 | 3 | Princeton |
| 79 | Pashos, Tony | T | 6-6 | 320 | 08/03/1980 | 3 | Illinois |
| 74 | Williams, Maurice | T | 6-5 | 315 | 01/26/1979 | 6 | Michigan |
| 77 | Williams, Mike | T | 6-6 | 370 | 01/11/1980 | 4 | Texas |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 33 | Jones, Greg | RB | 6-1 | 255 | 05/09/1981 | 2 | Florida State |
| 32 | Jones-Drew, Maurice | RB | 5-7 | 212 | 03/23/1985 | 1 | UCLA |
| 24 | Owens, Montell | RB | 5-10 | 219 | 05/04/1984 | 1 | Maine |
| 34 | Pearman, Alvin | RB | 5-10 | 206 | 08/10/1982 | 2 | Virginia |
| 28 | Taylor, Fred | RB | 6-1 | 226 | 01/27/1976 | 9 | Florida |
| 22 | Toefield, LaBrandon | RB | 5-11 | 232 | 09/24/1980 | 4 | LSU |
| 36 | Wimbush, Derrick | FB | 6-1 | 233 | 08/26/1980 | 2 | Fort Valley State |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 46 | Estandia, Greg | TE | 6-8 | 255 | 11/18/1982 | 0 | UNLV |
| 86 | Jones, Brian | TE | 6-3 | 258 | 08/23/1981 | 2 | Ark.-Pine Bluff |
| 18 | Jones, Matt | WR | 6-6 | 238 | 04/22/1983 | 2 | Arkansas |
| 89 | Lewis, Marcedes | TE | 6-6 | 265 | 05/19/1984 | 1 | UCLA |
| 86 | Northcutt, Dennis | WR | 5-11 | 171 | 12/22/1977 | 7 | Arizona |
| 17 | Sharon, Charles | WR | 6-0 | 184 | 04/04/1983 | 0 | Bowling Green |
| 85 | Wiggins, Jermaine | TE | 6-2 | 260 | 01/18/1975 | 7 | Georgia |
| 19 | Wilford, Ernest | WR | 6-4 | 218 | 01/14/1979 | 3 | Virginia Tech |
| 11 | Williams, Reggie | WR | 6-4 | 214 | 05/17/1983 | 3 | Washington |
| 87 | Wrighster, George | TE | 6-3 | 257 | 04/01/1981 | 4 | Oregon |
| 88 | Zelenka, Joe | TE | 6-3 | 265 | 03/09/1976 | 8 | Wake Forest |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 57 | Hawkins, Brent | DE | 6-2 | 245 | 09/01/1983 | 1 | Illinois State |
| 97 | Hayward, Reggie | DE | 6-5 | 285 | 03/14/1979 | 6 | Iowa State |
| 98 | Henderson, John | DT | 6-7 | 325 | 01/09/1979 | 5 | Tennessee |
| 93 | McCray, Bobby | DE | 6-6 | 261 | 08/08/1981 | 3 | Florida |
| 96 | McDaniel, Tony | DT | 6-7 | 295 | 01/20/1985 | 1 | Tennessee |
| 92 | Meier, Rob | DT | 6-5 | 298 | 08/29/1977 | 7 | Washington State |
| 94 | Mincey, Jeremy | DE | 6-3 | 260 | 12/14/1983 | 0 | Florida |
| 78 | Patterson, Elton | DE | 6-2 | 271 | 06/03/1981 | 1 | UCF |
| 56 | Pettway, Kenneth | DE | 6-4 | 238 | 11/13/1982 | 1 | Grambling State |
| 95 | Spicer, Paul | DE | 6-4 | 296 | 08/18/1975 | 8 | Saginaw Valley St. |
| 99 | Stroud, Marcus | DT | 6-6 | 306 | 06/25/1978 | 6 | Georgia |
| 90 | Wyche, James | DE | 6-5 | 271 | 04/19/1982 | 0 | Syracuse |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | Cousin, Terry | CB | 5-9 | 185 | 04/11/1975 | 10 | South Carolina |
| 20 | Darius, Donovin | S | 6-1 | 225 | 08/12/1975 | 9 | Syracuse |
| 42 | Fudge, Jamaal | S | 5-9 | 196 | 05/17/1983 | 1 | Clemson |
| 27 | Mathis, Rashean | CB | 6-1 | 195 | 08/27/1980 | 4 | Bethune-Cookman |
| 47 | McCadam, Kevin | S | 6-1 | 219 | 03/06/1979 | 5 | Virginia Tech |
| 26 | Richardson, David | S | 6-0 | 208 | 09/09/1981 | 3 | Cal Poly |
| 38 | Roberson, Chris | CB | 5-11 | 185 | 06/03/1983 | 1 | Eastern Michigan |
| 43 | Sensabaugh, Gerald | S | 6-0 | 218 | 06/13/1983 | 2 | North Carolina |
| 41 | Sorensen, Nick | S | 6-3 | 210 | 07/31/1978 | 6 | Virginia Tech |
| 31 | Starks, Scott | CB | 5-9 | 178 | 06/27/1983 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 23 | Webb, Dee | CB | 5-11 | 186 | 12/08/1984 | 1 | Florida |
| 29 | Williams, Brian | CB | 5-11 | 198 | 07/02/1979 | 5 | North Carolina St. |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 58 | Cordova, Jorge | LB | 6-1 | 241 | 09/25/1981 | 1 | Nevada |
| 50 | Gilbert, Tony | LB | 6-0 | 239 | 10/16/1979 | 4 | Georgia |
| 55 | Greisen, Nick | LB | 6-1 | 245 | 08/10/1979 | 5 | Wisconsin |
| 51 | Ingram, Clint | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 03/21/1983 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 59 | Iwuh, Brian | LB | 6-0 | 235 | 03/08/1984 | 1 | Colorado |
| 54 | Peterson, Mike | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 06/17/1976 | 8 | Florida |
| 52 | Smith, Daryl | LB | 6-2 | 244 | 04/14/1982 | 3 | Georgia Tech |
| 53 | Thomas, Pat | LB | 6-2 | 246 | 01/26/1983 | 2 | North Carolina St. |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Hanson, Chris | P | 6-2 | 202 | 10/25/1976 | 7 | Marshall |
| 10 | Scobee, Josh | K | 6-1 | 190 | 06/23/1982 | 3 | Louisiana Tech |
| 4 | Yelk, Tony | K | 6-1 | 205 | 09/29/1981 | 0 | Iowa State |

**JACK DEL RIO**, HEAD COACH

**Dave Campo**, asst. head coach/secondary; **Joe DeCamillis**, special teams coord.; **Dirk Koetter**, off. coord.; **Mike Smith**, def. coord.; **Mike Tice**, asst. head coach/off.; **Mark Duffner**, linebackers; **Ray Hamilton**, def. line; **Andy Heck**, off. line; **Ted Monachino**, asst. def. line; **Todd Monken**, wide receivers; **Kennedy Pola**, running backs; **Robert Prince**, asst. wide receivers; **Alvin Reynolds**, def. backs; **Mike Shula**, quarterbacks; **Tom Williams**, asst. special teams

# TENNESSEE 3

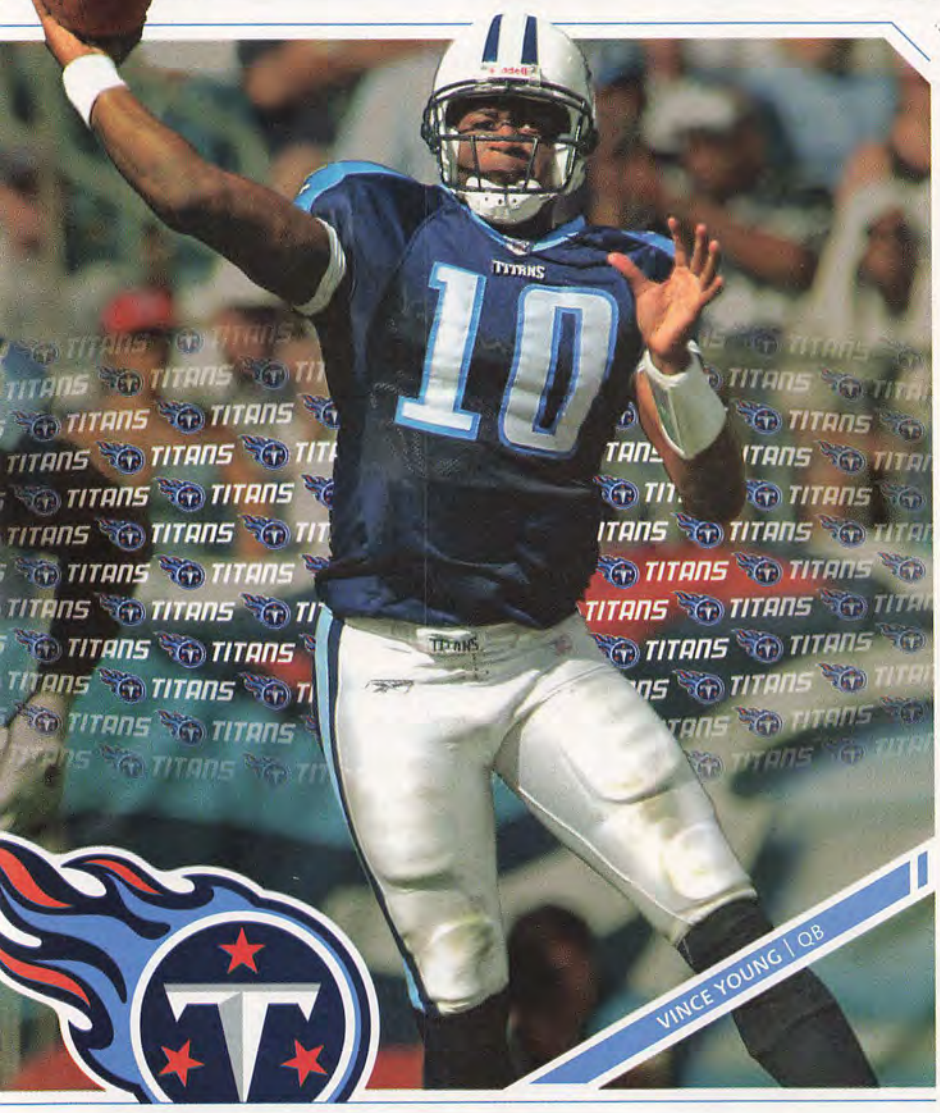
**AFC SOUTH**

- 2006 Record: 8-8

www.titansonline.com

- LP FIELD

Capacity: 68,798 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 615-565-4200




## Young and willing

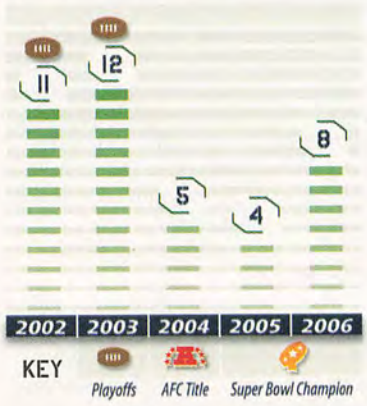
Despite the loss of Pacman, the youthful Titans are ahead of the rebuilding schedule, thanks mostly to their dynamic second-year quarterback.

For all of the noise created by the Titans' previous two first-round draft picks in 2005 and 2006—cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones (a lot of good but more bad) and quarterback Vince Young (all good)—the franchise continues to quietly rebuild one of the NFL's most consistently successful teams in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Though onlookers expected the Titans to draft Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Matt Leinart in 2006 and reunite him with his college offensive coordinator at USC, Norm Chow, Tennessee used the No. 3 overall pick on former Texas quarterback Young.

Young started the fourth game, after the Titans had fallen to 0-3, and won eight of his 13 starts, leading four fourth-quarter comebacks for victories. He threw for 12 touchdowns and ran for another seven. Young's accomplishments helped push the Titans to within one game of an AFC wild-card berth and he also was named NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year. "He came on quicker than we

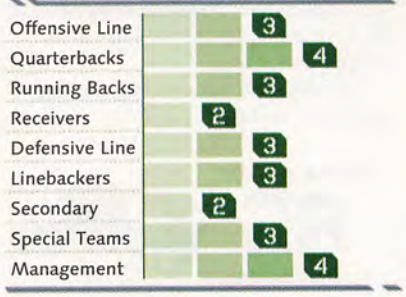
### 5-YEAR WINS TREND




### PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Vince Young |
| FB | Ahmard Hall |
| RB | LenDale White |
| LT | Michael Roos |
| LG | Jacob Bell |
| C | Kevin Mawae |
| RG | Benji Olson |
| RT | David Stewart |
| TE | Bo Scaife |
| WR | Brandon Jones |
| WR | Justin Gage |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Kyle Vanden Bosch |
| LT | Rien Long |
| RT | Albert Haynesworth |
| RE | Travis LaBoy |
| LLB | David Thornton |
| MLB | Stephen Tulloch |
| RLB | Keith Bulluck |
| LCB | Nick Harper |
| RCB | Reynaldo Hill |
| SS | Chris Hope |
| FS | Lamont Thompson |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| K | Rob Bironas |
| P | Craig Hentrich |
| KR | Courtney Roby |
| PR | Cortland Finnegan |

### POWER RATINGS




DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

## THE BOOK ON ... Vince Young *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"I don't think I've ever seen a guy who plays with as much confidence as Vince Young. The things he did in college [Texas], you shook your head and said he would never be able to do in this league. Then he does. He runs 40 yards for a touchdown to win a game. He is that good of an athlete that he can almost single-handedly take over an NFL game as a rookie.

"He has a lot of talent, but he has a lot to learn. The team has a lot of confidence in him as its quarterback. They feed off of his energy."

anticipated," says Titans Coach Jeff Fisher, who reached 110 career victories during the 2006 season. "From the day he walked in the door, it was important to him."

In addition to adjusting to a rookie starting quarterback, Fisher oversaw a locker-room makeover that brought 21 new players onto the roster from 2005.

On kickoff weekend 2006, the Titans fielded the league's second-youngest team at 25 years, 281 days. Only the Packers were younger. And as is the case with any NFL team, especially a young one, turnovers and takeaways are major barometers of success or failure.

In their first five games, all losses, the Titans had just seven takeaways and committed 12 turnovers for a minus-five differential. But in the last 11 contests, when Tennessee made an improbable run at the playoffs with an 8-3 finish, it had 23 takeaways and committed just 12 turnovers for a plus-11 differential. In games with an even or positive differential, the Titans were 7-2, compared to 1-6 with a negative slate.

The trick in 2007 is continuing to build on the surge of 2006.

And Tennessee will have to do it without Jones, who, despite his numerous off-field legal entanglements, quickly established himself as one of the league's most dynamic players. Because of his repeated run-ins with the law, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Jones for the 2007 season. Though Jones is appealing, he's unlikely to get on the field this year.

Jones solidified the Titans' secondary in his second season, collecting 62 total tackles, four interceptions (with one returned for a touchdown), one sack and eight passes broken up.

At the NFL's annual meeting in Phoenix in March, Fisher was asked to talk about the rest of his team.

"I would love to talk about my team," he said. "We have a lot of good players. There's a lot more going on in our world than just Adam Jones, believe me. The way we finished was really exciting. In the many years I have coached, last year was one of my favorites."

Fisher mentioned his good fortune to enjoy a 11-year run with former Titans quarterback Steve McNair, now with Baltimore. The Titans

## DRAFT REPORT

Despite Tennessee having its choice of Robert Meachem, Dwayne Bowe and Dwayne Jarrett, the Titans decided to focus on defense in Round One with the selection of **Michael Griffin**. While the former Longhorns safety was worthy of being selected midway through the first round and also excels on special teams, the decision to overlook the need at wide receiver following the losses of Drew Bennett and Bobby Wade in free agency could come back to haunt Tennessee. Wide receivers **Paul Williams**, **Chris Davis** and **Joel Filani** were added in the later rounds, but none of is expected to have an impact as a rookie. Running back **Chris Henry** skyrocketed up the charts following the NFL Combine, but has yet to produce anywhere near his potential. Center **Leroy Harris** will be groomed to eventually replace Kevin Mawae. Defensive linemen **Antonio Johnson** and **Jacob Ford** will compete for backup spots. **Ryan Smith** is an underrated and scrappy cornerback who could be a steal as a late second-day selection. Offensive tackle **Mike Otto** was a four-year starter in the Big Ten and should make the team's roster, eventually becoming a starter at some point in his career.

**GRADE** D

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 19 | Griffin, Michael | S | 6-0 | 205 | Texas |
| 2 | 18 | Henry, Chris | RB | 6-0 | 233 | Arizona |
| 3 | 17 | Williams, Paul | WR | 6-2 | 210 | Fresno State |
| 4 | 16 | Harris, Leroy | C | 6-3 | 300 | North Carolina State |
| 4 | 29 | Davis, Chris | WR | 6-0 | 180 | Florida State |
| 5 | 15 | Johnson, Antonio | DT | 6-3 | 300 | Mississippi State |
| 6 | 14 | Filani, Joel | WR | 6-3 | 216 | Texas Tech |
| 6 | 30 | Ford, Jacob | DE | 6-5 | 252 | Central Arkansas |
| 6 | 32 | Smith, Ryan | CB | 5-10 | 165 | Florida |
| 7 | 13 | Otto, Mike | T | 6-5 | 304 | Purdue |

## THE COUNT

| 13 | 15:38 | 4 |
|---|---|---|
| Years that Jeff Fisher has now been coach of the Titans, becoming the NFL's longest-tenured head coach since the retirement of Pittsburgh's Bill Cowher. | The Titans' time of possession in a 24-17 win against Jacksonville Dec. 17, the shortest time a winning team had the ball in a win since the NFL started keeping the statistic in 1977. | Game-winning field goals last season by Rod Bironas, a Titans franchise record. |

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** @ *Jacksonville*
SEPT. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 2** vs. *Indianapolis*
SEPT. 16 | 1:00
**MUST-SEE GAME**
*Last season, the Titans pulled off a huge upset by beating the eventual Super Bowl champions by three points. A win in this rematch would allow Tennessee to keep closing the distance with its division rival.*
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 3** @ *New Orleans*
SEPT. 24 | 8:30
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 4** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 5** vs. *Atlanta*
OCT. 7 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 6** @ *Tampa Bay*
OCT. 14 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 7** @ *Houston*
OCT. 21 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 8** vs. *Oakland*
OCT. 28 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 9** vs. *Carolina*
NOV. 4 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 10** vs. *Jacksonville*
NOV. 11 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 11** @ *Denver*
NOV. 19 | 8:30
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 12** @ *Cincinnati*
NOV. 25 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 13** vs. *Houston*
DEC. 2 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 14** vs. *San Diego*
DEC. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 15** @ *Kansas City*
DEC. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 16** vs. *New York Jets*
DEC. 23 | 4:15
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 17** @ *Indianapolis*
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 16-23 | New York Jets |
| 09/17 | L | 7-40 | at San Diego |
| 09/24 | L | 10-13 | at Miami |
| 10/01 | L | 14-45 | Dallas |
| 10/08 | L | 13-14 | at Indianapolis |
| 10/15 | W | 25-22 | at Washington |
| 10/29 | W | 28-22 | Houston |
| 11/05 | L | 7-37 | at Jacksonville |
| 11/12 | L | 26-27 | Baltimore |
| 11/19 | W | 31-13 | at Philadelphia |
| 11/26 | W | 24-21 | New York Giants |
| 12/03 | W | 20-17 | Indianapolis |
| 12/10 | W | 26-20 | at Houston |
| 12/17 | W | 24-17 | Jacksonville |
| 12/24 | W | 30-29 | at Buffalo |
| 12/31 | L | 23-40 | New England |

**WON 8, LOST 8**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Henry | 270 | 1211 | 4.5 | 70t | 7 |
| Young | 83 | 552 | 6.7 | 39t | 7 |
| L. White | 61 | 244 | 4.0 | 26 | 0 |
| C. Brown | 41 | 156 | 3.8 | 21 | 0 |
| Hall | 7 | 21 | 3.0 | 11 | 0 |
| Scaife | 1 | 13 | 13.0 | 13t | 1 |
| P. Jones | 2 | 8 | 4.0 | 7 | 0 |
| Givens | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| B. Jones | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Roby | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Nickey | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Titans** | 469 | 2214 | 4.7 | 70t | 15 |
| **Opponents** | 506 | 2313 | 4.6 | 73 | 20 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bennett | 46 | 737 | 16.0 | 39 | 3 |
| Wade | 33 | 461 | 14.0 | 25 | 2 |
| Scaife | 29 | 370 | 12.8 | 34 | 2 |
| B. Jones | 27 | 384 | 14.2 | 53 | 4 |
| Henry | 18 | 78 | 4.3 | 12 | 0 |
| Hall | 15 | 138 | 9.2 | 28 | 0 |
| L. White | 14 | 60 | 4.3 | 13 | 0 |
| Troupe | 13 | 150 | 11.5 | 32 | 2 |
| Williams | 8 | 121 | 15.1 | 20 | 0 |
| Givens | 8 | 104 | 13.0 | 27 | 0 |
| Hartsock | 6 | 68 | 11.3 | 23 | 0 |
| P. Jones | 2 | 31 | 15.5 | 17 | 0 |
| Roby | 2 | 28 | 14.0 | 21 | 0 |
| Cramer | 2 | 8 | 4.0 | 6 | 0 |
| C. Brown | 2 | 4 | 2.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Wallace | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |
| **Titans** | 226 | 2748 | 12.2 | 53 | 13 |
| **Opponents** | 335 | 3750 | 11.2 | 68t | 24 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Young | 357 | 184 | 2199 | 12 | 13 |
| Collins | 90 | 42 | 549 | 1 | 6 |
| **Titans** | 447 | 226 | 2748 | 13 | 19 |
| **Opponents** | 530 | 335 | 3750 | 24 | 17 |

**SACKS**

Vanden Bosch 6.5, LaBoy 3.5, Starks 3, Bulluck 2.5, Finnegan 2, Haynesworth 2, T. Brown 1.5, Bockwoldt 1, P. Jones 1, Mahelona 1, Odom 0.5, Sirmon 0.5, Smith 0.5, Tulloch 0.5

**TITANS 26, OPPONENTS 29**

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Titans)*

"They've been a team that always is competitive. To start 0-5 and come back to finish 8-8 with a rookie quarterback [Vince Young], it shows how the players and coaches have stayed with [Coach] Jeff Fisher's program. They were knocking on the door of the playoffs and will be even better this year.

"I am impressed with the young players they keep bringing in and the smart moves they make in veteran free agency. They have weathered the worst times. Vince Young exceeded everyone's expectations. They are tailoring the offense to the things he does well."

coach also said he is hoping that 2007 was the first of another long and successful run with a second quarterback.

That may be, but the certainty looking into the future is that Young can't surprise defenses the way he did as a rookie. Still, Young might have that indefensible element as a runner.

Young came into the NFL hearing that his running skills from Texas would not transfer because, in the pros, everybody is fast. As a result, Fisher said, he saw Young trying to be a pocket passer. But eventually, Young ran for a first down, then another and still another. And his confidence returned.

"It became a big part of his arsenal," Fisher says.

And running effectively was one of the reasons Young was able to lead the fourth-quarter rallies, which included coming back from deficits of 21 (Giants), 14 (Colts) and eight (Texans). Young won the game at Houston in overtime with a 39-yard touchdown run.

"He converted six third downs against the Colts; that's back-breaking for a defense," Fisher says.

Even with the superman heroics of Young, Tennessee is far more than a one-man team. The Titans were able to get impressive production from last offseason's free-agent signees.

Finally out from beneath salary-cap problems, the Titans spent wildly in 2006 to sign linebacker David Thornton, center Kevin Mawae and strong safety Chris Hope. Thornton played in all 16 games with 13 starts and was third on the team with 107 tackles. Mawae and Hope started all 16 games, with Hope recording a career-high five interceptions along with 128 tackles, second on the team to linebacker Keith Bulluck.

Tennessee added more veterans through free agency this March, signing wide receiver Justin Gage from the Bears and cornerback Nick Harper from the Colts. Like Thornton two years ago, Harper is another grab off the Colts' starting defense and should help soften the blow of Jones' suspension.

Other young players already in the system are expected to contribute in expanded roles. Leading that group is linebacker Stephen Tulloch, who will

### DID YOU KNOW

The 2006 Titans were the fifth team in NFL history to lose their first five games and still finish with a record of .500 or better. The 1962 Buffalo Bills finished 7-6-1 while the 1981 Washington Redskins, 1984 Cincinnati Bengals and 2001 Washington Redskins each ended up 8-8.

Vince Young's eight wins as a rookie starting quarterback were the fifth-most in NFL history. Only Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger (13 wins in 2004), Chicago's Kyle Orton (10, 2005), Buffalo's Joe Ferguson (nine, 1973) and Indianapolis' Chris Chandler (nine, 1988) had more.

Vince Young became the first quarterback to record two comebacks of at least 14 points or more in his rookie season. Young helped lead the greatest comeback in NFL history during the Titans' 24-21 home win against the New York Giants on Nov. 26, when Tennessee scored 24 unanswered fourth-quarter points.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**BRANDON JONES**
wide receiver

After an ACL injury during his rookie season, Jones came back to play in every game last year, and started 10 contests. He led the team with four receiving TDs and added 384 yards.

### TITANS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Ernest Givins (1986-94)**
*Currently holds franchise records for catches (582) and yards (7,935), and added 46 touchdowns.*

**2 Charlie Hennigan (1960-66)**
*Finished his career with a whopping 16.6-yard average on 410 catches and his 51 touchdowns are tops among all WRs who played for the Oilers/Titans.*

**3 Drew Hill (1985-91)**
*Consistently made big plays for Warren Moon-led Oilers, with 47 touchdown receptions.*

MIKE EHRMANN / WIRE IMAGE.COM

probably take over the middle spot from Peter Sirmon. Tulloch, who mainly came off the bench in 2006, had 47 tackles.

Wide receiver Brandon Jones came back from ACL surgery as a rookie to play in all 16 games, including 10 starts, in his second season. He caught 27 passes for 384 yards and a team-best four receiving touchdowns.

Second-year tailback LenDale White will enter training camp with the featured back job his to lose. He rushed for 244 yards on 61 carries last season, and, despite battling weight problems, earned enough confidence that management released Travis Henry and let Chris Brown leave via free agency.

"He is looking forward to this opportunity," Fisher says of White. "But he is a young player and still needs competition."

The Titans used their 2007 second-round draft pick (50th overall) on Chris Henry, not to be confused with the notorious receiver from Cincinnati. This Chris Henry is the former University of Arizona running back who ran for 581 yards and seven touchdowns in 2006, along with catching 21 passes, including one for a touchdown.

With its first-round selection at No. 19, Tennessee selected former Texas safety Michael Griffin. But Fisher says Griffin is not expected to automatically become the free safety, where Lamont Thompson has played despite consistently arriving late against the pass and run. Griffin, a dynamic special teams player, will get a look at various spots in the secondary and should also fit in well on the dangerous Tennessee special teams.

The Titans proved to be opportunistic in 2006. They scored on three return touchdowns, second in the league. But the return game is another area in which the team will miss Jones. He returned three punts for touchdowns and averaged 12.9 yards on 34 punt returns. On 20 kickoff returns, Jones averaged 26.1 yards, with a team-best long of 70.

Still, Fisher and new General Manager Mike Reinfeldt appear to be handling the turnover well and moving the Titans forward.

"The biggest challenge when dealing with turnover is personality," Fisher says. "You have to hope to improve from a talent and production standpoint, but to me, the focus goes right to personality and chemistry in the locker room. You have no chance in this league unless you can communicate with them."

**FINAL GRADE** 74

STOCK REPORT: UP

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Nick Harper**, CB (IND)

*The Titans continue to raid division rival Indianapolis for starting defensive players. A year ago it was linebacker David Thornton. This offseason, Tennessee signed cornerback Nick Harper as an unrestricted free agent.*

- Bryan Scott, DB (NO)
- Justin Gage, WR (CHI)
- Ryan Fowler, LB (DAL)
- Tim Rattay, QB (TB)
- Gilbert Gardner, LB (IND)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Travis Henry, RB (DEN)
- Drew Bennett, WR (STL)
- Bobby Wade, WR (MIN)
- Robaire Smith, DE (CLE)
- Colby Bockwoldt, LB (SF)
- Zach Piller, OG (DET)

> "They [Tennessee Titans] watched me grow and mature over the years. I've played them my entire career since I've been in Indy. I made a lot of plays against them and now it's time to make plays for them."
>
> *—free-agent acquisition Nick Harper on signing with the Titans*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 300.6 | 27 |
| Rushing | 138.4 | 5 |
| Passing | 162.3 | 30 |
| Scoring | 324 | 16 |
| Punt Returns | 12.6 | 1 |
| Kick Returns | 23.2 | 11 |
| Red Zone TD % | 44.7 | 23 |
| Total Defense | 369.7 | 32 |
| Against Rush | 144.6 | 30 |
| Against Pass | 225.1 | 27 |
| Points Allowed | 400 | 31 |
| Interceptions | 17 | 13t |
| Sacks | 26 | 29 |
| Turnover Diff. | +2 | 13t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 261 | 105 | 133 | 23 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 38 | 170 | 17 | 16 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | 13 | 3 | 5 |

## TITANS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Collins, Kerry | QB | 6-5 | 245 | 12/30/1972 | 12 | Penn State |
| | Rattay, Tim | QB | 6-0 | 200 | 03/15/1977 | 8 | Louisiana Tech |
| 10 | Young, Vince | QB | 6-4 | 233 | 05/18/1983 | 1 | Texas |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 54 | Amano, Eugene | C | 6-3 | 310 | 08/01/1982 | 3 | SE Missouri State |
| 60 | Bell, Jacob | G | 6-4 | 295 | 03/02/1981 | 3 | Miami (OH) |
| 73 | Geisinger, Justin | G | 6-3 | 322 | 05/24/1982 | 1 | Vanderbilt |
| 70 | Loper, Daniel | T | 6-6 | 320 | 01/15/1982 | 1 | Texas Tech |
| 68 | Mawae, Kevin | C | 6-4 | 289 | 01/23/1971 | 13 | LSU |
| 75 | Olson, Benji | G | 6-4 | 320 | 06/05/1975 | 9 | Washington |
| 71 | Roos, Michael | T | 6-7 | 315 | 10/05/1982 | 2 | E. Washington |
| 76 | Stewart, David | T | 6-7 | 318 | 08/28/1982 | 1 | Mississippi State |
| 72 | Wand, Seth | T | 6-7 | 330 | 08/06/1979 | 4 | NW Missouri State |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 45 | Hall, Ahmard | RB | 5-11 | 235 | 11/13/1979 | 1 | Texas |
| 25 | White, LenDale | RB | 6-1 | 235 | 12/20/1984 | 1 | USC |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 48 | Cramer, Casey | TE | 6-2 | 250 | 01/05/1982 | 3 | Dartmouth |
| 12 | Gage, Justin | WR | 6-4 | 212 | 01/25/1981 | 4 | Missouri |
| 87 | Givens, David | WR | 6-0 | 215 | 08/16/1980 | 5 | Notre Dame |
| 47 | Hartsock, Ben | TE | 6-4 | 255 | 07/05/1980 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 81 | Jones, Brandon | WR | 6-1 | 212 | 10/06/1982 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 85 | Orr, Jonathan | WR | 6-1 | 193 | 03/20/1983 | 0 | Wisconsin |
| 49 | Petrowski, Jamie | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 07/12/1982 | 0 | Indiana State |
| 82 | Roby, Courtney | WR | 6-0 | 189 | 01/10/1983 | 2 | Indiana |
| 16 | Ross, Richie | WR | 6-4 | 205 | 08/28/1982 | 0 | Nebraska-Kearney |
| 80 | Scaife, Bo | TE | 6-3 | 249 | 01/06/1981 | 2 | Texas |
| 84 | Troupe, Ben | TE | 6-4 | 270 | 09/01/1982 | 3 | Florida |
| 89 | Wallace, Cooper | TE | 6-3 | 258 | 04/26/1982 | 1 | Auburn |
| 86 | Williams, Roydell | WR | 6-0 | 187 | 03/14/1981 | 2 | Tulane |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 92 | Adibi, Nathaniel | DE | 6-3 | 249 | 01/25/1981 | 0 | Virginia Tech |
| 97 | Brown, Tony | DT | 6-1 | 280 | 09/29/1980 | 2 | Memphis |
| 77 | Conover, Sean | DE | 6-5 | 254 | 07/31/1984 | 1 | Bucknell |
| 92 | Haynesworth, Albert | DT | 6-6 | 320 | 06/17/1981 | 5 | Tennessee |
| 91 | LaBoy, Travis | DE | 6-3 | 260 | 08/10/1981 | 3 | Hawaii |
| 99 | Long, Rien | DT | 6-6 | 300 | 08/07/1981 | 3 | Washington State |
| 94 | Mahelona, Jesse | DT | 6-0 | 311 | 04/07/1983 | 1 | Tennessee |
| 98 | Odom, Antwan | DE | 6-4 | 274 | 09/24/1981 | 3 | Alabama |
| 95 | Savage, Josh | DE | 6-4 | 276 | 09/28/1980 | 3 | Utah |
| 90 | Starks, Randy | DT | 6-3 | 312 | 12/14/1983 | 3 | Maryland |
| 93 | Vanden Bosch, Kyle | DE | 6-4 | 278 | 11/17/1978 | 5 | Nebraska |
| 79 | White, Marcus | DT | 6-5 | 303 | 11/13/1981 | 0 | Murray State |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31 | Finnegan, Cortland | CB | 5-10 | 188 | 02/02/1984 | 1 | Samford |
| 22 | Fuller, Vincent | S | 6-1 | 190 | 08/03/1982 | 2 | Virginia Tech |
| 25 | Harper, Nick | CB | 5-10 | 182 | 09/10/1974 | 6 | Fort Valley State |
| 21 | Hill, Reynaldo | CB | 5-11 | 185 | 08/28/1982 | 3 | Florida |
| 24 | Hope, Chris | S | 5-11 | 206 | 09/29/1980 | 5 | Florida State |
| 30 | King, Eric | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 05/10/1982 | 2 | Wake Forest |
| 37 | Lowry, Calvin | S | 5-11 | 200 | 02/13/1983 | 1 | Penn State |
| 23 | Nickey, Donnie | S | 6-3 | 210 | 04/25/1980 | 4 | Ohio State |
| 24 | Scott, Bryan | S | 6-1 | 219 | 04/13/1981 | 4 | Penn State |
| 28 | Thompson, Lamont | S | 6-1 | 215 | 07/30/1978 | 5 | Washington State |
| 36 | Waddell, Michael | | 5-10 | 180 | 01/09/1981 | 3 | North Carolina |
| 26 | Woolfolk, Andre | CB | 6-2 | 197 | 01/26/1980 | 4 | Oklahoma |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 58 | Amato, Ken | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 05/18/1977 | 4 | Montana State |
| 53 | Bulluck, Keith | LB | 6-3 | 235 | 04/04/1977 | 7 | Syracuse |
| 55 | Fowler, Ryan | LB | 6-3 | 250 | 05/20/1982 | 3 | Duke |
| | Gardner, Gilbert | LB | 6-1 | 228 | 05/09/1982 | 4 | Purdue |
| 57 | Nande, Terna | LB | 6-0 | 232 | 06/17/1983 | 1 | Miami (OH) |
| 51 | Reynolds, Robert | LB | 6-3 | 247 | 05/20/1981 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 50 | Thornton, David | LB | 6-2 | 225 | 11/01/1978 | 5 | North Carolina |
| 55 | Tulloch, Stephen | LB | 5-11 | 235 | 01/01/1985 | 1 | North Carolina St. |
| 49 | Woods, LeVar | LB | 6-4 | 241 | 03/15/1978 | 6 | Iowa |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Bironas, Rob | K | 6-0 | 205 | 01/29/1978 | 2 | Georgia Southern |
| 15 | Hentrich, Craig | P | 6-3 | 213 | 05/18/1971 | 13 | Notre Dame |

**JEFF FISHER**, HEAD COACH

**Norm Chow**, off. coord.; **Jim Schwartz**, def. coord.; **Chuck Cecil**, safeties/nickelbacks; **Marty Galbraith**, asst. special teams; **Fred Graves**, wide receivers; **Craig Johnson**, quarterbacks; **Alan Lowry**, special teams; **Dave McGinnis**, asst. head coach/linebackers; **Mike Munchak**, off. line; **Marcus Robertson**, asst. secondary; **Sherman Smith**, asst. head coach/running backs; **Jim Washburn**, def. line; **John Zernhelt**, tight ends

# HOUSTON

# 4

**AFC SOUTH**

**2006 Record: 6-10**
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**RELIANT STADIUM**
Capacity: 71,054 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 866-GO-TEXANS

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Matt Schaub |
| FB | Vonta Leach |
| RB | Ahman Green |
| LT | Jordan Black |
| LG | Chester Pitts |
| C | Mike Flanagan |
| RG | Fred Weary |
| RT | Eric Winston |
| TE | Owen Daniels |
| WR | Andre Johnson |
| WR | Kevin Walter |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Anthony Weaver |
| LT | Amobi Okoye |
| RT | Anthony Maddox |
| RE | Mario Williams |
| LLB | Shantee Orr |
| MLB | DeMeco Ryans |
| RLB | Morlon Greenwood |
| LCB | Dunta Robinson |
| RCB | Demarcus Faggins |
| SS | Glenn Earl |
| FS | C.C. Brown |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Chad Stanley |
| K | Kris Brown |
| PR | Dexter Wynn |
| KR | Jerome Mathis |

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 2 |
| Quarterbacks | 2 |
| Running Backs | 3 |
| Receivers | 3 |
| Defensive Line | 4 |
| Linebackers | 3 |
| Secondary | 4 |
| Special Teams | 3 |
| Management | 3 |

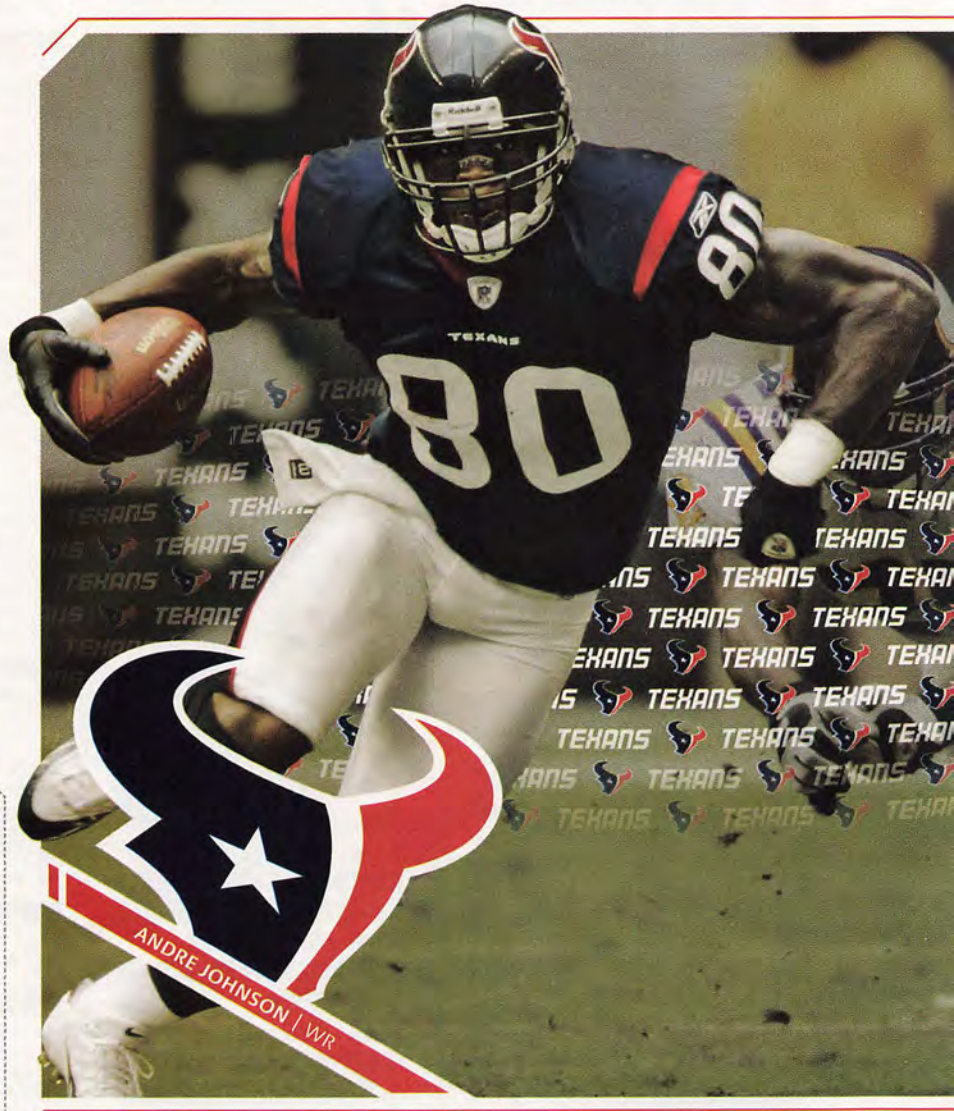
## Welcome, Matt

The Texans are hopeful that their trade for Falcons backup QB Schaub will work out as well for them as the last Atlanta backup who was traded (see: *Favre, Brett*) did for Green Bay.

After five seasons, a 24-56 record, four top-10 draft choices and 272 sacks, the Houston Texans decided to trade in their shiny quarterback to whom they had handed the keys to the franchise in 2002.

The Texans drafted David Carr with the first overall pick in the 2002 draft, and he started all 16 games as a rookie for a decent first-year team that benefited (like Cleveland, Jacksonville and Carolina before) from entering the league in the free-agency era.

But following a 6-10 season in which he threw 11 touchdowns and 12 interceptions with an 82.1 passer rating, Houston released Carr. One year was enough for Coach Gary Kubiak to decide he wanted a different quarterback. Kubiak simplified his offense, emphasizing short throws, in an effort to rebuild Carr's confidence and cut down on turnovers. Kubiak also wanted




TOM DIPACE

## DRAFT REPORT

After surprising everyone with the No. 1 overall pick of Mario Williams last year, the Texans stunned some again with the selection of DT **Amobi Okoye**. Although the talented 19-year-old will help bring pressure up front, Houston could regret passing on cover cornerbacks such as Leon Hall and Darrelle Revis. The Texans' other first-day choice was somewhat of a reach, as WR **Jacoby Jones** from Division II Lane was taken in Round Three. Jones impressed in the postseason, but will need time to develop. Cornerback **Fred Bennett** has good size and straight-line speed, but may never be a starter. Strong safety **Brandon Harrison** brings size and athleticism to a position of need for the Texans. Offensive linemen **Brandon Frye** and **Kasey Studdard** have a good chance to stick as backups, but they lack starting potential. Linebacker **Zach Diles** will likely spend his rookie season on the practice squad. The offseason trade for QB Matt Schaub also has to be figured into the final grade. Houston's inability to fill its two greatest needs, a starting receiver opposite Andre Johnson and cornerback opposite Dunta Robinson, lowers the final grade.

**GRADE: D**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | Okoye, Amobi | DT | 6-2 | 287 | Louisville |
| 3 | 9 | Jones, Jacoby | WR | 6-4 | 210 | Lane |
| 4 | 24 | Bennett, Fred | CB | 6-1 | 199 | South Carolina |
| 5 | 7 | Harrison, Brandon | S | 6-2 | 210 | Stanford |
| 5 | 26 | Frye, Brandon | T | 6-4 | 300 | Virginia Tech |
| 6 | 9 | Studdard, Kasey | G | 6-3 | 310 | Texas |
| 7 | 8 | Diles, Zach | LB | 6-0 | 240 | Kansas State |

more vocal leadership from Carr. But the results weren't good enough.

So the Texans traded for highly regarded Atlanta backup Matt Schaub, who was never going to win the Falcons job as long as Michael Vick was there. Houston gave up its No. 8 overall pick in the 2007 NFL Draft, moving down to No. 10 in a swap of first-round slots, as well as a second-round choice in 2007 and 2008. The Texans also made a big financial investment in Schaub, paying him a guaranteed $7 million in a six-year contract worth $48 million. Sage Rosenfels remains the top backup.

In Schaub, the former University of Virginia star, quarterback guru Kubiak gets his man. Schaub has played in 38 games with two starts. He's thrown 161 passes, completing 84 for six touchdowns, six interceptions and 1,033 yards in three NFL seasons in Atlanta.

Kubiak says he looked at more than statistics when talking about making the change, but still kind of threw Carr under the bus.

"I'm not going to compare Matt to David," Kubiak says. "Matt brings confidence and leadership. He's got an air about him, like, 'I'm ready to lead a team. I want to be one of the top quarterbacks in the league.' He's already doing a great job with our players and our organization."

Carr, who threw for more than 13,000 yards with 59 touchdowns and 65 interceptions, signed with Carolina.

"I thought we made some progress," Kubiak says of his one season with Carr. "But, as I told him, a fresh start will be good for him."

Schaub won't be the only new face in the Houston offense. He is just one of many who could be new starters on a unit that finished 28th in the NFL in yards gained and 27th in passing.

Schaub's most obvious ally is wide receiver Andre Johnson, who continues to put up big numbers. He had 103 receptions for 1,147 yards last season, but only five touchdowns. That latter number needs to increase. Second-year tight end Owen Daniels had five scores as a rookie last year.

The endless search to find a strong No. 2 receiver to take some heat off Johnson will have a new candidate in Kevin Walter, primarily a special-teams player who had 17 receptions in 2006,

### THE BOOK ON ... *Dunta Robinson* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"He's just a complete player. We were very high on him coming out of college. He has that combination of speed and athleticism, ball skills. He will tackle.

"Robinson has great versatility at cornerback. He might be one of the most complete cornerbacks in the league. He's not just a cover guy who can play man. He can play zone. He can support against the run. We really liked him. His stats were not great last season [2 interceptions, 10 passes broken up] but he is a very good player. His numbers will improve as the defense improves around him."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. *Kansas City* — SEPT. 9 | 1:00 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 2** @ *Carolina* — SEPT. 16 | 1:00 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 3** vs. *Indianapolis* — SEPT. 23 | 1:00 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 4** @ *Atlanta* — SEPT. 30 | 1:00

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*The Texans will head to Atlanta, where new starting quarterback Matt Schaub will play against his former team, the Falcons, and the man he played behind for three years, Michael Vick.*

W/L SCORE

**WEEK 5** vs. *Miami* — OCT. 7 | 1:00 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 6** @ *Jacksonville* — OCT. 14 | 1:00 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 7** vs. *Tennessee* — OCT. 21 | 1:00 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 8** @ *San Diego* — OCT. 28 | 4:05 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 9** @ *Oakland* — NOV. 4 | 4:15 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 10** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 11** vs. *New Orleans* — NOV. 18 | 1:00 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 12** @ *Cleveland* — NOV. 25 | 1:00 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 13** @ *Tennessee* — DEC. 2 | 1:00 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 14** vs. *Tampa Bay* — DEC. 9 | 1:00 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 15** vs. *Denver* — DEC. 13 | 8:15 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 16** @ *Indianapolis* — DEC. 23 | 1:00 — W/L SCORE

**WEEK 17** vs. *Jacksonville* — DEC. 30 | 1:00 — W/L SCORE

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 10-24 | Philadelphia |
| 09/17 | L | 24-43 | at Indianapolis |
| 09/24 | L | 15-31 | Washington |
| 10/01 | W | 17-15 | Miami |
| 10/15 | L | 6-34 | at Dallas |
| 10/22 | W | 27-7 | Jacksonville |
| 10/29 | L | 22-28 | at Tennessee |
| 11/05 | L | 10-14 | at New York Giants |
| 11/12 | W | 13-10 | at Jacksonville |
| 11/19 | L | 21-24 | Buffalo |
| 11/26 | L | 11-26 | at New York Jets |
| 12/03 | W | 23-14 | at Oakland |
| 12/10 | L | 20-26 | Tennessee |
| 12/17 | L | 7-40 | at New England |
| 12/24 | W | 27-24 | Indianapolis |
| 12/31 | W | 14-6 | Cleveland |

**WON 6, LOST 10**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dayne | 151 | 612 | 4.1 | 19 | 5 |
| Lundy | 124 | 476 | 3.8 | 35 | 4 |
| Gado | 54 | 217 | 4.0 | 34 | 1 |
| Carr | 53 | 195 | 3.7 | 16 | 2 |
| Taylor | 28 | 123 | 4.4 | 17 | 1 |
| Cook | 3 | 18 | 6.0 | 14 | 0 |
| A. Johnson | 3 | 14 | 4.7 | 18 | 0 |
| Morency | 5 | 13 | 2.6 | 12 | 0 |
| Moulds | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Rosenfels | 4 | 5 | 1.3 | 7 | 0 |
| Shepherd | 2 | 5 | 2.5 | 6 | 0 |
| Walter | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Simmons | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stanley | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Texans** | 431 | 1687 | 3.9 | 35 | 13 |
| **Opponents** | 446 | 1956 | 4.4 | 39t | 16 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Johnson | 103 | 1147 | 11.1 | 53 | 5 |
| Moulds | 57 | 557 | 9.8 | 29 | 1 |
| Daniels | 34 | 352 | 10.4 | 33t | 5 |
| Lundy | 33 | 204 | 6.2 | 15 | 0 |
| Cook | 18 | 107 | 5.9 | 15 | 0 |
| Walter | 17 | 160 | 9.4 | 15 | 0 |
| Gado | 16 | 80 | 5.0 | 19 | 0 |
| Dayne | 14 | 77 | 5.5 | 13 | 0 |
| Putzier | 13 | 125 | 9.6 | 26 | 0 |
| Bruener | 9 | 62 | 6.9 | 25 | 2 |
| Leach | 6 | 61 | 10.2 | 19 | 1 |
| Taylor | 3 | 40 | 13.3 | 24 | 0 |
| Shepherd | 3 | 22 | 7.3 | 8 | 0 |
| D. Anderson | 1 | 27 | 27.0 | 27 | 0 |
| Morency | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Lewis | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| **Texans** | 329 | 3032 | 9.2 | 53 | 14 |
| **Opponents** | 328 | 3635 | 11.1 | 83t | 22 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carr | 442 | 302 | 2767 | 11 | 12 |
| Rosenfels | 39 | 27 | 265 | 3 | 1 |
| **Texans** | 481 | 329 | 3032 | 14 | 13 |
| **Opponents** | 504 | 328 | 3635 | 22 | 11 |

**SACKS**

Babin 5, M. Williams 4.5, Ryans 3.5, Earl 2, Kalu 2, Maddox 2, Orr 1.5, C. Brown 1, Dalton 1, Faggins 1, Greenwood 1, Payne 1, Peek 1, Weaver 1, Malone 0.5

**TEXANS 28, OPPONENTS 43**

his first season in Houston. Gone is Eric Moulds, who caught 57 passes in his one year with the Texans. In the third round of the 2007 draft, with its second overall selection, Houston took Division II wide receiver Jacoby Jones of Lane College. The former track star is being compared with New Orleans' seventh-round gem of 2006, Marques Colston.

The Texans have a new feature running back in former Green Bay star Ahman Green, who was inked to a four-year, $23 million contract, though he might be nearing the end of his career after a lot of wear-and-tear as Brett Favre's foil.

But it's the offensive line in Houston that will have to improve in pass protection to avoid watching Schaub get pounded the way Carr did. In five seasons, Carr was sacked 76, 15, 49, 68 and 41 times, respectively.

"I can't put it all on one player," Kubiak says. "It's still a building team with a lot of players."

Maybe Carr held on to the ball too long at times. What's scary for Schaub is that Carr moves better.

"He came in and took a lot of hits," Kubiak says of Carr. "He's a very athletic young man, moves around very well."

Veteran center Mike Flanagan should be back from the injured reserve list after his season ended in Week 12 with broken ribs. However, the news isn't so promising for tackle Charles Spencer, whose rookie year was cut short with a broken leg in the second game.

The Texans did sign free agent Jordan Black from the Chiefs and have slotted him as their left tackle. If Houston could have moved down in the first round of the 2007 draft, it was interested in Central Michigan tackle Joe Staley. As it is, second-year lineman Eric Winston, possibly a better guard, will likely play right tackle.

For all of their needs on offense, the Texans went out and selected former University of Louisville defensive tackle Amobi Okoye 10th overall in the draft. At age 19, he is the youngest player ever drafted. And Okoye should help elevate the play of defensive end Mario Williams, who as the No. 1 overall pick in 2006 got a surprise nod over running back Reggie Bush, who went second to New Orleans. Williams had just 4.5 sacks last season.

### DID YOU KNOW

Houston has never ended a regular season in its five-year franchise history on a winning note, and the Texans haven't won two straight games since holding Chicago and Jacksonville to a total of five points in road wins on Dec. 19 and 26 of 2004.

The Texans' defense has allowed the most yards in the league since 2003, surrendering 22,764.

Wide receiver Andre Johnson ranked first in the league with 103 receptions, but tied for 36th in touchdown catches (five).

### TEXANS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Andre Johnson** (2003-present)
*Johnson might be the best overall player in franchise history and now has 311 receptions for 3,953 yards and 17 touchdowns in his career.*

2. **Jabar Gaffney** (2002-05)
*Lining up opposite Johnson, Gaffney had more than 2,000 yards (2,009) in his four seasons in Houston.*

3. **Corey Bradford** (2002-05)
*Sharing time with Johnson and Gaffney for four seasons, Bradford still recorded 18 touchdowns and 1,992 receiving yards.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**KEVIN WALTER**
wide receiver

The Texans have been looking for a No. 2 wide receiver to take some pressure off of Andre Johnson, their franchise wideout. They used Eric Moulds there last year, and he had 57 receptions before being released in the offseason. This season's stand-in could be Walter, who had 17 catches in his first season in Houston and may benefit from opponents double-teaming Johnson.

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Texans)*

"It's going to be interesting to see how their quarterback situation will work out. David Carr did have some tough experiences. But he didn't have much of an offensive line in front of him. We'll see what the new guy [Matt Schaub] can do, but if they don't get better players around him, the results won't be much better. The offensive line has to give him time to throw and protect him better than they did Carr.

"They're a team with a lot of high draft picks. They've got some strong defensive players and a few playmakers on offense, especially [wide receiver] Andre Johnson."

KIRBY LEE / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 278.9 | 28 | Total Defense | 337.5 | 24 |
| Rushing | 105.3 | 21 | Against Rush | 122.3 | 20 |
| Passing | 173.6 | 27 | Against Pass | 215.3 | 22 |
| Scoring | 267 | 28 | Points Allowed | 366 | 25t |
| Punt Returns | 10.5 | 6 | Interceptions | 11 | 28t |
| Kick Returns | 22.7 | 16 | Sacks | 28 | 27t |
| Red Zone TD % | 57.1 | 9 | Turnover Diff. | -3 | 21 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 282 | 106 | 156 | 20 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 42 | 192 | 24 | 8 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 14 | 0 | 3 |

In descending order, the Texans have drafted defensive linemen in the first round in three consecutive drafts—Okoye, Williams and Florida State's Travis Johnson, who is expected to return from the injured reserve and compete for a starting job at tackle.

As is the case across the roster, the defensive line is filled with high-round draft picks that were highly regarded coming out of college. At linebacker, second-year pro DeMeco Ryans was the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year after leading the team with 156 tackles along with 3.5 sacks, five passes broken up and one interception. Cornerback Dunta Robinson slumped statistically in 2006, but is highly respected around the league.

Talent is not the problem in Houston, where a football-crazed fan base lost patience with Carr and might also be growing frustrated with the pace of improvement. But the right attitude might be in place now. Being good or competitive is no longer enough.

Former Coach Dom Capers, who wouldn't discuss the prospect of postseason with reporters, had the Texans close to .500, as they finished 7-9 in 2004 in their third season of play. Then they bottomed out at 2-14 in 2005, leading to Capers' firing and the hiring of Kubiak.

At Houston's annual draft luncheon, Kubiak talked about playoffs, as if the postseason was the only goal and anything short of it would be a failure. That aim resounded well with Texans players, even ones who've only known the Kubiak era.

"We're just shooting to be a playoff team, whatever it takes," Ryans says. "Last year, of course, we improved from the year before with the six wins, but like [Kubiak] says, six wins wasn't good enough. That's not acceptable. We don't want fans to accept that, and we're not going to accept that. It's time for everyone around here to raise the bar."

And it all starts with the play of the quarterback and the offensive line.

**FINAL GRADE** 71

STOCK REPORT: UP

### KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Matt Schaub**, QB (trade, ATL)

*The Texans released David Carr, their quarterback for five years, and pulled off a trade for highly regarded Atlanta backup Matt Schaub, handing him the keys to their offense.*

- Jordan Black, OT (KC)
- Danny Clark, LB (NO)
- Ahman Green, RB (GB)
- Jeff Zgonina, DT (MIA)
- Shawn Barber, LB (PHI)
- Jamar Fletcher, DB (DET)
- Andre Davis, WR (BUF)

### KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Antwan Peek, LB (CLE)
- Lewis Sanders, DB (ATL)
- David Carr, QB (CAR)
- Michael Stone, DB (NYG)

> "Just from looking at the way he walks around the locker room and things like that, you can tell he's a leader. That's something you want to have at the quarterback position."
>
> *—WR Andre Johnson on new Texans QB Matt Schaub*

### THE COUNT

**2**

The number of 1,000-yard rushing seasons by a Houston player in its five-year history. Newly acquired running back Ahman Green has eclipsed 1,000 yards in six of the past seven years.

**272**

The number of sacks allowed by the Texans since 2002, the most surrendered by any team.

**209**

Points Houston allowed on the road this past season, the fourth-highest total in the NFL.

## TEXANS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18 | Rosenfels, Sage | QB | 6-4 | 225 | 03/06/1978 | 5 | Iowa State |
| 8 | Schaub, Matt | QB | 6-5 | 237 | 06/25/1981 | 3 | Virginia |
| 10 | Van Pelt, Bradlee | QB | 6-2 | 220 | 07/03/1980 | 1 | Colorado State |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 72 | Black, Jordan | T | 6-5 | 310 | 01/28/1980 | 3 | Notre Dame |
| 58 | Flanagan, Mike | C | 6-5 | 301 | 11/10/1973 | 9 | UCLA |
| 57 | Hodgdon, Drew | C | 6-3 | 309 | 11/15/1981 | 2 | Arizona State |
| 62 | Jackson, Scott | G | 6-4 | 300 | 09/19/1979 | 0 | Brigham Young |
| 76 | McKinney, Steve | C | 6-4 | 302 | 10/15/1975 | 9 | Texas A&M |
| 48 | Pittman, Bryan | C | 6-3 | 270 | 01/20/1977 | 4 | Washington |
| 69 | Pitts, Chester | G | 6-3 | 320 | 06/26/1979 | 5 | San Diego State |
| 74 | Salaam, Ephraim | T | 6-7 | 300 | 06/19/1976 | 9 | San Diego State |
| 77 | Spencer, Charles | T | 6-5 | 351 | 03/17/1982 | 1 | Pittsburgh |
| 70 | Weary, Fred | G | 6-4 | 308 | 09/30/1977 | 5 | Tennessee |
| 73 | Winston, Eric | T | 6-6 | 311 | 11/17/1983 | 1 | Miami (FL) |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 43 | Cook, Jameel | RB | 5-10 | 237 | 02/08/1979 | 6 | Illinois |
| 36 | Dayne, Ron | RB | 5-10 | 245 | 03/14/1978 | 6 | Wisconsin |
| 35 | Gado, Samkon | RB | 5-11 | 226 | 11/13/1982 | 2 | Liberty |
| 30 | Green, Ahman | RB | 6-0 | 218 | 02/16/1977 | 9 | Nebraska |
| 44 | Leach, Vonta | RB | 6-0 | 250 | 11/06/1981 | 3 | East Carolina |
| 33 | Lundy, Wali | RB | 5-10 | 214 | 09/08/1983 | 1 | Virginia |
| 27 | Taylor, Chris | RB | 5-11 | 220 | 11/07/1983 | 1 | Indiana |

| # | RECEIVERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | Adams, Charlie | WR | 6-2 | 190 | 10/23/1979 | 3 | Hofstra |
| 14 | Anderson, David | WR | 5-10 | 193 | 07/28/1983 | 1 | Colorado State |
| 87 | Bruener, Mark | TE | 6-4 | 258 | 09/16/1972 | 12 | Washington |
| 81 | Daniels, Owen | TE | 6-3 | 247 | 11/09/1982 | 1 | Wisconsin |
| 11 | Davis, Andre | WR | 6-1 | 195 | 06/12/1979 | 5 | Virginia Tech |
| 80 | Johnson, Andre | WR | 6-3 | 219 | 07/11/1981 | 4 | Miami (FL) |
| 13 | Mathis, Jerome | WR | 5-11 | 172 | 07/26/1983 | 2 | Hampton |
| 88 | Putzier, Jeb | TE | 6-4 | 256 | 01/20/1979 | 5 | Boise State |
| 82 | Steele, Ben | TE | 6-5 | 260 | 05/27/1978 | 2 | Mesa State |
| 18 | Taylor, Chris | WR | 5-10 | 183 | 04/25/1979 | 0 | Texas A&M |
| 83 | Walter, Kevin | WR | 6-3 | 214 | 08/04/1981 | 4 | Eastern Michigan |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 93 | Babin, Jason | DE | 6-2 | 259 | 05/24/1980 | 3 | Western Michigan |
| 79 | Bulman, Tim | DT | 6-3 | 300 | 10/31/1982 | 1 | Boston College |
| 60 | Cochran, Earl | DE | 6-5 | 284 | 04/19/1981 | 1 | Alabama State |
| 96 | Johnson, Thomas | DT | 6-2 | 298 | 06/24/1981 | 2 | Middle Tenn. St. |
| 99 | Johnson, Travis | DT | 6-3 | 305 | 04/26/1982 | 2 | Florida State |
| 94 | Kalu, N.D. | DE | 6-3 | 265 | 08/03/1975 | 9 | Rice |
| 78 | Killings, Cedric | DT | 6-2 | 310 | 12/14/1977 | 4 | Carson-Newman |
| 95 | Maddox, Anthony | DT | 6-1 | 305 | 11/22/1978 | 3 | Delta State |
| 97 | Malone, Alfred | DE | 6-5 | 308 | 02/21/1982 | 2 | Troy |
| 98 | Weaver, Anthony | DE | 6-3 | 280 | 07/28/1980 | 5 | Notre Dame |
| 90 | Williams, Mario | DE | 6-7 | 291 | 01/31/1985 | 1 | North Carolina St. |
| 92 | Zgonina, Jeff | DT | 6-2 | 290 | 05/24/1970 | 14 | Purdue |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | Alexander, Roc | CB | 5-10 | 190 | 09/23/1981 | 3 | Washington |
| 24 | Brown, C.C. | S | 6-0 | 208 | 01/27/1983 | 2 | La.-Lafayette |
| 26 | Earl, Glenn | S | 6-1 | 215 | 06/10/1981 | 3 | Notre Dame |
| 38 | Faggins, Demarcus | CB | 5-10 | 178 | 06/13/1979 | 5 | Kansas State |
| 21 | Fletcher, Jamar | CB | 5-10 | 186 | 08/28/1979 | 6 | Wisconsin |
| 34 | Hutchins, Von | CB | 5-9 | 181 | 02/14/1981 | 3 | Mississippi |
| 20 | McCleon, Dexter | CB | 5-10 | 195 | 10/09/1973 | 10 | Clemson |
| 28 | McKenzie, Chris | CB | 5-8 | 182 | 03/17/1982 | 1 | Arizona State |
| 23 | Robinson, Dunta | CB | 5-10 | 174 | 04/11/1982 | 3 | South Carolina |
| 22 | Simmons, Jason | S | 5-9 | 199 | 03/30/1976 | 9 | Arizona State |
| 40 | Walker, John | CB | 6-1 | 200 | 04/25/1983 | 0 | USC |
| 25 | Wynn, Dexter | CB | 5-9 | 177 | 02/25/1981 | 3 | Colorado State |

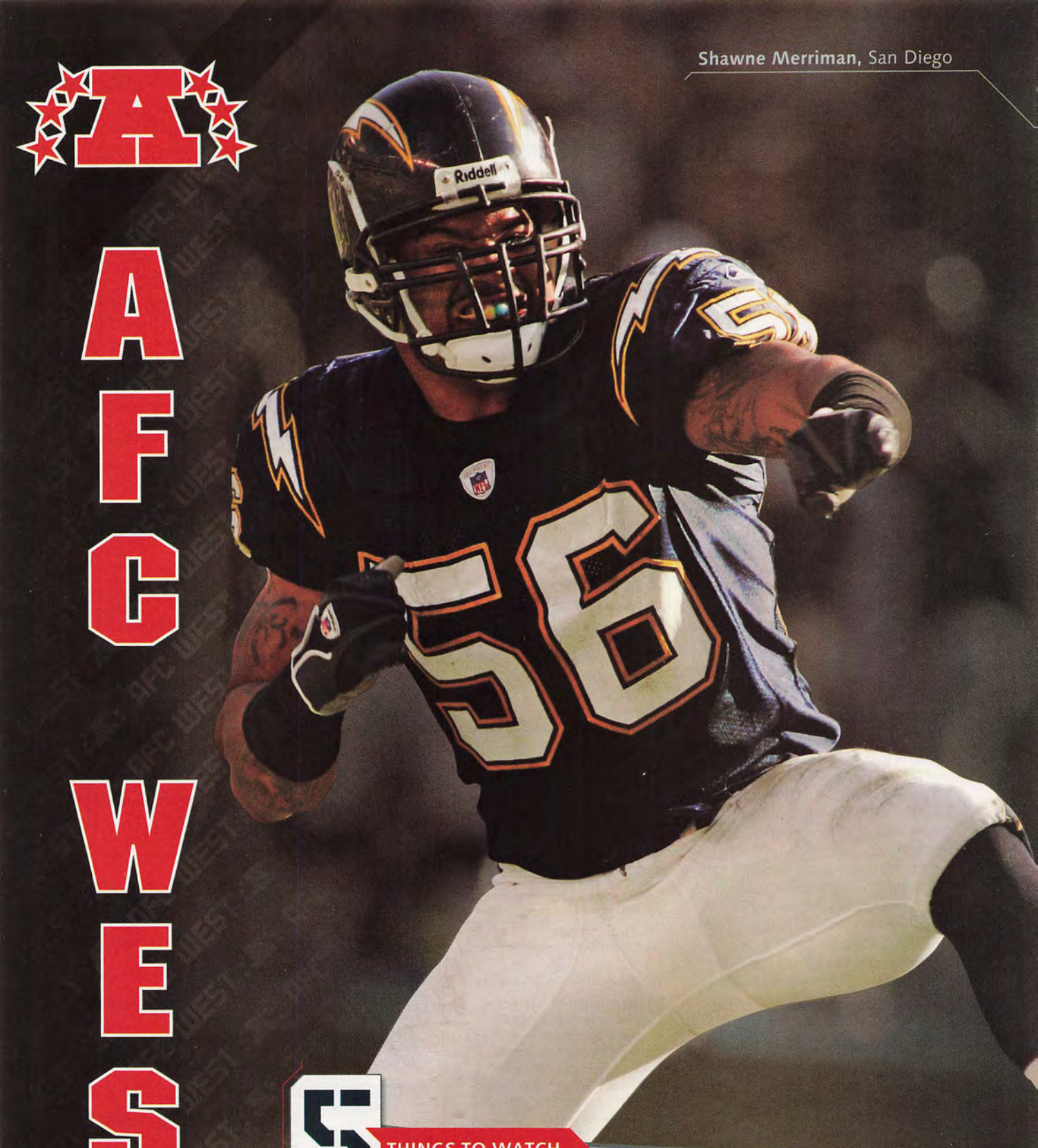
| # | LINEBACKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | Anderson, Charlie | LB | 6-4 | 243 | 12/08/1981 | 3 | Mississippi |
| 51 | Barber, Shawn | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 01/14/1975 | 9 | Richmond |
| 55 | Clark, Danny | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 05/09/1977 | 7 | Illinois |
| 56 | Greenwood, Morlon | LB | 6-0 | 238 | 07/17/1978 | 6 | Syracuse |
| 53 | Orr, Shantee | LB | 6-0 | 250 | 05/28/1981 | 4 | Michigan |
| 59 | Ryans, DeMeco | LB | 6-2 | 235 | 07/28/1984 | 1 | Alabama |
| 52 | Wong, Kailee | LB | 6-2 | 246 | 05/23/1976 | 9 | Stanford |

| # | KICKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Brown, Kris | K | 5-11 | 205 | 12/23/1976 | 8 | Nebraska |
| 7 | Stanley, Chad | P | 6-3 | 205 | 01/29/1976 | 8 | Stephen F. Austin |

**GARY KUBIAK**, HEAD COACH

**Mike Sherman**, asst. head coach/off. coord.; **Richard Smith**, def. coord.; **Joe Marciano**, special teams coord.; **John Benton**, off. line; **Chick Harris**, running backs; **Jethro Franklin**, def. line; **Larry Kirksey**, wide receivers; **Brian Pariani**, tight ends; **Kyle Shanahan**, quarterbacks; **Jon Hoke**, def. backs; **Johnny Holland**, linebackers; **Martin Bayless**, asst. def. backs; **Frank Pollack**, asst. off. line

# AFC WEST




Shawne Merriman, San Diego

## 5 THINGS TO WATCH

1. Can Norv Turner keep the San Diego Chargers at the top of the division? After San Diego management blew Marty Schottenheimer out of town, it chose the journeyman Turner because it wanted a veteran coach to lead a veteran team. This roster is loaded and should contend for a championship. But Turner has never had success as a head coach after stints in Washington and Oakland. Was this the right move?

2. Can Brodie Croyle lead Kansas City back to the playoffs? The Chiefs are probably going with the second-year quarterback from Alabama to begin a youth movement. Problem is, the Chiefs have an otherwise veteran team. Can they actually get better with a young quarterback?

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

1 CHARGERS | 108

2 BRONCOS | 112

3 CHIEFS | 116

4 RAIDERS | 120

## Chargers hope talent continues to carry the day post-Schottenheimer

By Bill Williamson, *The Denver Post*

"Marty Ball" isn't played here anymore.

But will the San Diego Chargers still rule the West?

The big story in this historically powerful division, which has several question marks heading into the new season, is the matter of the Chargers. Will they still dominate or let the new-look Broncos or maybe even the aging Chiefs tighten the gap in the West?

On paper, San Diego is perhaps the best team in the NFL, with few holes. But there are plenty of question marks.

The biggest one is between the headsets. Is new Coach Norv Turner really the answer?

After the dust settled from a typical January coaching carousel, the biggest story of the offseason developed in mid-February. After all of the Chargers' stars returned from the Pro Bowl, the Spanos family surprised the NFL world by firing Marty Schottenheimer. It wasn't a total shock after another Schottenheimer stumble ended the Chargers' Super Bowl hopes with a divisional-round loss at home to New England. But the Spanos family told the world Schottenheimer was safe despite his 13th career playoff loss.

After coordinators Cam Cameron and Wade Phillips got head-coaching jobs elsewhere, General Manager A.J. Smith, no fan of Schottenheimer, talked ownership into shelving the veteran coach.

Turner quickly became the choice, and the national pundits had a field day. He is a proven offensive coordinator, but a head coach? Statues of his likeness were not erected after failed tenures in Washington and Oakland.

The Chargers maintain that Turner was selected because he is a veteran coach. No newbies were sought to guide such a talented, veteran roster.

One can't deny San Diego's enormous talent and the fact that it is the best team in the West. But the Chargers were terrific last year and look where it got them in the postseason.

So San Diego is no sure thing, with Turner being a major reason for it.

The NFL is a coach's league. Time after time, it has been proven that coaching wins here. If that's the case, the Denver Broncos may have a huge edge. Mike Shanahan, who in the offseason signed an extension that will keep him in Denver through 2011, has won two Super Bowls. Chiefs Coach Herm Edwards has a playoff win to his credit, while Turner has a losing NFL record.

Lane Kiffin, of course, has no NFL coaching record and is yet another inexperienced Oakland head coach. The son of Tampa Bay defensive wizard Monte Kiffin, Lane has a nice pedigree, but also inherits the Raiders' recent run of futility and the omnipresent shadow of owner Al Davis.

We know how that works out, usually. But Lane Kiffin's biggest problem may be the Raiders' talent level—it is not very high. In a competitive division, that will be a problem.

As usual, San Diego, Denver and Kansas City all have a decent chance of making the playoffs. It appears the Chiefs' chances of moving on are less than the Chargers and Broncos. And Denver's chances are less than the Chargers.

But these teams will be looking to keep pace with San Diego, where the power of the division still resides. Really, is there a more talented 53-man roster in the NFL?

The Chargers are special. In running back LaDainian Tomlinson, fullback Lorenzo Neal, tight end Antonio Gates, linebacker Shawne Merriman and defensive tackle Jamal Williams, they arguably have five of the best players at their positions in the NFL.

If quarterback Philip Rivers—who regressed badly as the season wore on in his first year as an NFL starter—can strive under the tutelage of noted QB guru Turner, the Chargers should be fine.

Shanahan appears re-energized in Denver. The Broncos stumbled to a 9-7 non-playoff finish in 2006 after going 13-3 the year before. In Denver, missing the playoffs is not tolerated. That's why the Broncos will have a totally new look. Nine significant new players were brought in.

The Kansas City Chiefs advanced to the playoffs in 2006 because of a dose of late-season improvements and fortune. They may need a larger dose of the latter this season.

Edwards has a nice handle on this team, but it's getting older everywhere except quarterback, where it appears second-year man Brodie Croyle will take over. That means even more of an emphasis on running back Larry Johnson, who broke an NFL record for most carries in a season last year. Defensively, the Chiefs are aging and need help. The team signed several free agents, most notably linebackers Donnie Edwards and Napoleon Harris.

Oakland has a long way to go as it ends the Randy Moss Era and begins the JaMarcus Russell Reign. Kiffin was far from Davis' first choice and, at 31, it's naïve to believe he is ready to lead a team, especially one with such volatile personalities as Jerry Porter, Warren Sapp and Derrick Burgess.

CHARLES BAUS

**3** Can money buy happiness in Denver? The Broncos are trying to rebound from a 9-7 season and the tragic deaths of cornerback Darrent Williams and running back Damien Nash. One way Denver is attempting to bounce back is buying a new team. The Broncos spent big free-agent dollars to bring in Travis Henry, Daniel Graham and Dre' Bly.

**4** Can Lane Kiffin get respect from the Raiders? At 31, he is the youngest coach in modern NFL history. The former Southern California assistant and son of Tampa Bay Defensive Coordinator Monte Kiffin is yet another young coach in what has become a revolving door in Oakland. Does he have a chance to be successful in the NFL?

**5** Will Jay Cutler lead Denver to the playoffs in his first full season as starting quarterback? Cutler was promoted with five games remaining last year and was mostly good in his limited time. He is a hard worker, intelligent, a natural leader, fearless and has a gun of an arm. Plus, he has Mike Shanahan leading him. Should be a good mix.

# SAN DIEGO

1

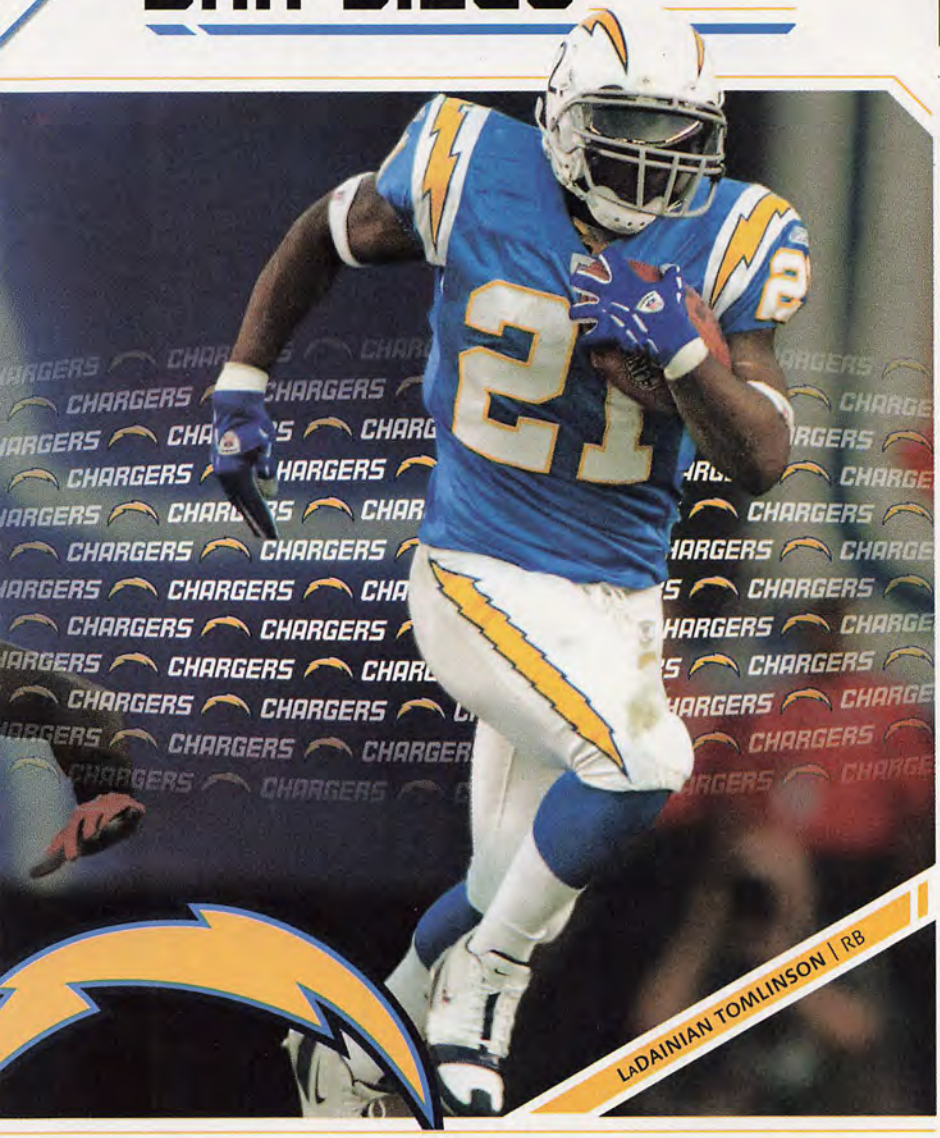
**AFC WEST**

- 2006 Record: 14-2

www.chargers.com

- QUALCOMM STADIUM

Capacity: 71,500 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 877-CHARGERS




## Mission (highly) possible

Even after last year's playoff disappointment and the replacement of their coach with an NFL journeyman, there's no denying the Chargers' talent to get to the Super Bowl.

Marlon McCree stood in a near-empty San Diego locker room, trying to make sense of a 24-21 home playoff loss to the Patriots.

How could the Chargers' season be over? This was a Super Bowl team. This was a team that was dominating New England and went 8-0 at home in the regular season. It was a team that won 10 straight games.

How did this happen?

"Hopefully, we can all overcome this," McCree said after the Chargers turned what appeared to be a run to

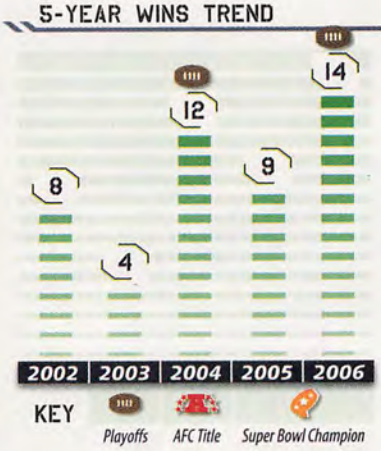
**CHARGERS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS**

1 **Lance Alworth** (1962-70)
*The first AFL player elected to the Hall of Fame averaged more than 1,000 yards per season in his nine years with the Chargers.*

2 **Charlie Joiner** (1976-86)
*Joiner holds San Diego's receptions mark with 586 and totaled 12,146 yards over his 19-year career.*

3 **Gary Garrison** (1966-76)
*Finished a season with more than 20 yards per catch six times and averaged 18.6 for his career.*

**5-YEAR WINS TREND**



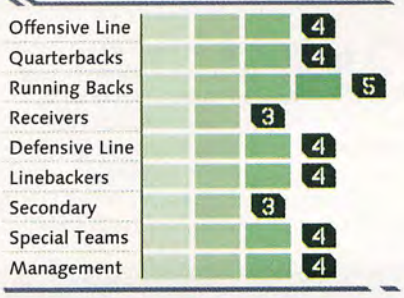

**PROJECTED STARTERS**

| | OFFENSE |
|---|---|
| QB | Philip Rivers |
| FB | Lorenzo Neal |
| RB | LaDainian Tomlinson |
| LT | Marcus McNeill |
| LG | Kris Dielman |
| C | Nick Hardwick |
| RG | Mike Goff |
| RT | Shane Olivea |
| TE | Antonio Gates |
| WR | Vincent Jackson |
| WR | Eric Parker |

| | DEFENSE |
|---|---|
| LE | Luis Castillo |
| DT | Jamal Williams |
| RE | Igor Olshansky |
| OLB | Shawne Merriman |
| ILB | Stephen Cooper |
| ILB | Matt Wilhelm |
| OLB | Shaun Phillips |
| LCB | Quentin Jammer |
| RCB | Drayton Florence |
| SS | Marlon McCree |
| FS | Clinton Hart |

| | SPECIAL TEAMS |
|---|---|
| P | Mike Scifres |
| K | Nate Kaeding |
| PR | Eric Parker |
| KR | Michael Turner |

**POWER RATINGS**




STAN LIU / US PRESSWIRE

the Super Bowl into a blown No. 1 seed in the AFC playoffs.

How could it be?

"I hope we get a chance to make up for this," McCree said.

Most of the Chargers will, but not Marty Schottenheimer, who was fired as coach and replaced by Norv Turner.

Here's the rub: This is perhaps the most talented and deep team in the league. It's also a team that has the putrid taste of failure fresh in its collective mouth. And it's a team that will be adjusting to life with a new coach.

Yes, the Chargers feature MVP running back LaDainian Tomlinson and linebacker Shawne Merriman, the most dominant defensive player in the league.

Turner is a noted offensive coordinator, but his record as a coach is not distinguished. As the head man in Washington and Oakland, Turner was 58-82-1 in nine NFL seasons, seven with the Redskins and two with the Raiders. Still, Turner was absurdly successful as the offensive coordinator during the Super Bowl years of the Dallas Cowboys in the early 1990s and gave life to Alex Smith's career in San Francisco last season.

Hall-of-Famer Troy Aikman swears by Turner and, apparently, the Chargers' brass was listening. San Diego General Manager A.J. Smith, who led the charge to kick Schottenheimer to the curb in February after the team initially said he was safe despite a career 5-13 playoff mark, was attracted to Turner because of his head-coaching experience. Smith wanted a veteran coach to take charge of this veteran team.

Add the fact that both the offensive coordinator, Cam Cameron (Miami), and defensive coordinator, Wade Phillips (Dallas), left for head-coaching jobs, Smith thought it was imperative that he had someone in place who has been a coach in the NFL before.

Turner knows he is inheriting a terrific situation. How could a coach be happier than being hand-fed a helping of Tomlinson, Merriman, tight end Antonio Gates, quarterback Philip Rivers and defensive tackle Jamal Williams?

Norv, you're not in Oakland anymore.

Still, Turner vows not to be overwhelmed by the talent or scared off knowing that a 13-3 finish will be a step backwards from Schottenheimer's 14-2 club last season.

"The one thing I'll tell you is I'm not affected by that because every season is different," Turner says. "The regular season is important, and obviously you have to do the things you have to do to win your division to get into the playoffs— whatever those things are, whatever it takes.

Craig Davis

## DRAFT REPORT

As good as the Chargers' offense was last season, improved play was still needed from the wide receiver spot. While Dwayne Jarrett, Anthony Gonzalez, Steve Smith and Sidney Rice were all still on the draft board, San Diego reached for **Craig Davis** at No. 30 overall. A 2008 third-round pick was sent to Chicago to move up in the second round and add former Utah S/CB **Eric Weddle**. Linebacker **Anthony Waters** missed most of his senior season with a torn ACL, but will help ease the loss of Randall Godfrey and Donnie Edwards. Despite having Antonio Gates and Brandon Manumaleuna, the Chargers still added TE **Scott Chandler** in the fourth round. Wide receiver **Legedu Naanee** has impressive athletic ability and could be a surprise next season. **Brandon Siler** was thought to be a solid first-day talent, but had to wait until the final round to hear his name called.

GRADE **C**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 30 | Davis, Craig | WR | 6-2 | 207 | LSU |
| 2 | 5 | Weddle, Eric | S | 5-11 | 200 | Utah |
| 3 | 33 | Waters, Anthony | LB | 6-3 | 240 | Clemson |
| 4 | 30 | Chandler, Scott | TE | 6-7 | 257 | Iowa |
| 5 | 35 | Naanee, Legedu | WR | 6-2 | 228 | Boise State |
| 7 | 30 | Siler, Brandon | LB | 6-2 | 235 | Florida |

## THE BOOK ON ...

**LaDainian Tomlinson** *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"What can you say about this guy? He just might be one of the best players ever to wear an NFL uniform. He is clearly the best player in the league today. Yes, Peyton Manning is great and he won a Super Bowl, but Tomlinson is the best pound-for-pound player. The guy is just not gifted physically, but the kid knows how to play the game. He doesn't lack in any area and perhaps the most special thing about L.T. is that he is tough. That's why he broke the touchdown record. The guy can't be tackled and he's so smart. The guy is the best."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. *Chicago*
SEPT. 9 | 4:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 2** @ *New England*
SEPT. 16 | 8:15
MUST-SEE GAME
*The Chargers have been waiting for this one, especially star running back LaDainian Tomlinson. San Diego hated the way the Patriots celebrated on its field after their playoff upset. The Chargers can return the favor early this season.*
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 3** @ *Green Bay*
SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 4** vs. *Kansas City*
SEPT. 30 | 4:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 5** @ *Denver*
OCT. 7 | 4:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 6** vs. *Oakland*
OCT. 14 | 4:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 7** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 8** vs. *Houston*
OCT. 28 | 4:05
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 9** @ *Minnesota*
NOV. 4 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 10** vs. *Indianapolis*
NOV. 11 | 8:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 11** @ *Jacksonville*
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 12** vs. *Baltimore*
NOV. 25 | 4:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 13** @ *Kansas City*
DEC. 2 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 14** @ *Tennessee*
DEC. 9 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 15** vs. *Detroit*
DEC. 16 | 4:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 16** vs. *Denver*
DEC. 24 | 8:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 17** @ *Oakland*
DEC. 30 | 4:15
W / L SCORE

STEVE FRANZ / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 27-0 | at Oakland |
| 09/17 | W | 40-7 | Tennessee |
| 10/01 | L | 13-16 | at Baltimore |
| 10/08 | W | 23-13 | Pittsburgh |
| 10/15 | W | 48-19 | at San Francisco |
| 10/22 | L | 27-30 | at Kansas City |
| 10/29 | W | 38-24 | St. Louis |
| 11/05 | W | 32-25 | Cleveland |
| 11/12 | W | 49-41 | at Cincinnati |
| 11/19 | W | 35-27 | at Denver |
| 11/26 | W | 21-14 | Oakland |
| 12/03 | W | 24-21 | at Buffalo |
| 12/10 | W | 48-20 | Denver |
| 12/17 | W | 20-9 | Kansas City |
| 12/24 | W | 20-17 | at Seattle |
| 12/31 | W | 27-20 | Arizona |

**WON 14, LOST 2**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tomlinson | 348 | 1815 | 5.2 | 85t | 28 |
| Turner | 80 | 502 | 6.3 | 73 | 2 |
| Neal | 29 | 140 | 4.8 | 43 | 1 |
| Rivers | 48 | 49 | 1.0 | 15 | 0 |
| Pinnock | 4 | 25 | 6.3 | 15 | 0 |
| Parker | 2 | 19 | 9.5 | 18 | 0 |
| Jackson | 3 | 16 | 5.3 | 8 | 0 |
| Whitehurst | 2 | 13 | 6.5 | 14t | 1 |
| McCardell | 1 | 8 | 8.0 | 8 | 0 |
| Manumaleuna | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| Volek | 3 | -3 | -1.0 | -1 | 0 |
| Scifres | 1 | -7 | -7.0 | -7 | 0 |
| **Chargers** | 522 | 2578 | 4.9 | 85t | 32 |
| **Opponents** | 386 | 1613 | 4.2 | 51 | 13 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gates | 71 | 924 | 13.0 | 57t | 9 |
| Tomlinson | 56 | 508 | 9.1 | 51t | 3 |
| Parker | 48 | 659 | 13.7 | 38 | 0 |
| McCardell | 36 | 437 | 12.1 | 28 | 0 |
| Jackson | 27 | 453 | 16.8 | 55 | 6 |
| Neal | 17 | 83 | 4.9 | 21 | 0 |
| Floyd | 15 | 210 | 14.0 | 46t | 3 |
| Manumaleuna | 14 | 91 | 6.5 | 19 | 3 |
| Turner | 3 | 47 | 15.7 | 30 | 0 |
| **Chargers** | 287 | 3412 | 11.9 | 57t | 24 |
| **Opponents** | 307 | 3563 | 11.6 | 74t | 19 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rivers | 460 | 284 | 3388 | 22 | 9 |
| Tomlinson | 3 | 2 | 20 | 2 | 0 |
| Volek | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Scifres | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Chargers** | 466 | 287 | 3412 | 24 | 9 |
| **Opponents** | 538 | 307 | 3563 | 19 | 16 |

**SACKS**

Merriman 17, Phillips 11.5, Castillo 7, Cesaire 4, Godfrey 4, Harris 3, Cooper 2.5, Edwards 2.5, Polk 2, Williams 2, Bingham 1.5, Olshansky 1.5, Robinson 1.5, McCree 1

**CHARGERS 61, OPPONENTS 28**

But really the true success in this league is measured with success in the playoffs and ultimately winning a Super Bowl."

The Chargers blew that chance last season. Can they rebound this year?

They are certainly loaded for another big run.

Turner may have not succeeded in Washington or Oakland, but he never had Tomlinson on his side, either. Tomlinson is one of the best players in the NFL, regardless of position. A sure-fire Hall-of-Famer who's entering his seventh season, he's showing no signs of slowing at age 28. He had 1,815 yards rushing and set an NFL record with 28 rushing touchdowns last season. He sets the tone for a strong offense.

"Just look at what he did last year and then you look what he's done through his short career—six years he's on pace to be one of the greatest, if not the greatest, back," Turner says.

With Tomlinson behind him, Rivers will never have to do too much. But if San Diego is going to make the next step, Rivers will have to make improvements. He'll need Turner's tutoring. After a good start in his first season as a starter, the No. 4 overall pick in 2004 faded down the stretch while his predecessor, Drew Brees, had a remarkable season in New Orleans.

In the second half of the season, Rivers threw for more than 230 yards just twice.

### DID YOU KNOW

In 2007, the Chargers will be seeking to win consecutive division titles for the first time since winning the AFC West three straight seasons (1979-81).

San Diego is 8-0 during the last two seasons when Pro Bowl linebacker Shawne Merriman records at least two sacks in a game.

San Diego Coach Norv Turner has won 10 games only once in a season and reached the playoffs just once in his previous nine years as an NFL head coach.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**VINCENT JACKSON**
wide receiver

The Chargers think he can be a No. 1 receiver and he might get that shot this season. He is built like a tight end and runs like a receiver. Jackson is a major mismatch for most cornerbacks.

He was rarely cut loose. The Chargers relied on other weapons—mostly the rushing of Tomlinson. It will be Turner's job to make Rivers a primary weapon. If the entire playbook is not open to Rivers this year, the Chargers' offense won't be as strong as it can.

Rivers' biggest receiving weapon is still Gates, whose production was down some in his fourth NFL season (71 catches, 9 touchdowns). But he's still the premier receiving tight end in the NFL. At 6-4 and 260 pounds, with the leaping ability of an NBA forward, Gates is a miserable proposition for defenses in the red zone.

It appears third-year player Vincent Jackson will have a chance to be the No. 1 wide receiver. Even though he has started only a handful of NFL games, Jackson is intriguing because, like Gates, he is a matchup nightmare. Jackson is 6-5 and 241 pounds and has great speed and pass-catching ability. He will make a lot of big plays. Eric Parker will also see plenty of action. But Tomlinson, Gates and Jackson will be the primary weapons.

The offensive line is solid and stays intact thanks to the free-agency return of standout left guard Kris Dielman. The Chargers are also thrilled about the sudden development of rookie left tackle Marcus McNeill. The team thought McNeill would have the typical rookie growing pains last season, but he took on one of the most difficult positions to play in the NFL so adeptly that some observers thought he should have won Rookie-of-the-Year honors. Center Nick Hardwick is also growing into a star.

### NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 365.0 | 4 | Total Defense | 301.6 | 10 |
| Rushing | 161.1 | 2 | Against Rush | 100.8 | 7 |
| Passing | 203.9 | 16 | Against Pass | 200.8 | 13 |
| Scoring | 492 | 1 | Points Allowed | 303 | 7 |
| Punt Returns | 8.5 | 17 | Interceptions | 16 | 17t |
| Kick Returns | 24.5 | 3 | Sacks | 61 | 1 |
| Red Zone TD % | 67.7 | 1 | Turnover Diff. | +13 | 3 |

**FIRST DOWNS**

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 321 | 137 | 169 | 15 |

**RED ZONE OFFENSE**

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 62 | 346 | 42 | 17 |

**TOUCHDOWNS**

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 32 | 24 | 0 | 3 |

ROB HOLT / SPORTPICS

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Chargers)*

"It's all about attitude with this team. How will the Chargers react to playing for Norv Turner after the players were so comfortable in Marty Schottenheimer's system? The players, as a whole, didn't want this change. It will be interesting to see how the players react to the disappointing playoff loss last year and the coaching change. The team is so talented, but will it be focused? ... Turner's biggest job will be to work with Philip Rivers. Turner is [a] quarterback guru and Rivers needs some tutoring. Rivers didn't finish well last year. The guy didn't look confident in the long-passing game last year. He is still a question mark. ... The Chargers have great talent on defense, but they will miss [former coordinator] Wade Phillips. There will be an adjustment period, even for the great Shawne Merriman."

The defensive line is just as strong as the offensive line. It will remain in a 3-4 alignment under new Defensive Coordinator Ted Cottrell, who worked with Smith in Buffalo. The trio of Williams, Luis Castillo and Igor Olshansky is menacing and sets the tone for an aggressive, wicked defense. Williams is a ground-game killer, while Olshanky and Castillo are two young, stout players who should be longtime stars.

But the Chargers' defense revolves around Merriman, who has to be considered the leading candidate to win the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 2007. Merriman likely would have won it in his second pro season last year had he not been suspended by the league for violating the steroid policy. Still, in 12 games, Merriman had an amazing 17 sacks. He is developing into the Tomlinson of NFL defensive players. His disruptiveness makes opposing offensive coordinators alter their game plans.

Outside linebacker Shaun Phillips is an underrated player who the Chargers locked up to a long-term deal in the offseason. The team will miss the leadership of linebacker Donnie Edwards, who signed as a free agent with Kansas City but is nearing the end of his career.

The secondary is not as strong as the Chargers' front seven, but it has experience. Watch for 2006 first-rounder Antonio Cromartie to emerge as a starter with veteran Quentin Jammer at cornerback.

The kicking game is solid, with reliable kicker Nate Keading and fifth-year punter Mike Scifres.

There are few holes in San Diego. The only things missing are Schottenheimer and a winning résumé by Turner.

### THE COUNT

**0-4**

The Chargers' postseason record since beating Pittsburgh in the AFC Championship game during the 1994 season.

**1.17**

LaDainian Tomlinson's career touchdowns-per-game average, the highest in league history by a player with a minimum of 40 games played.

**5**

Consecutive seasons San Diego has rushed for more than 2,000 yards, tying with the Denver Broncos for the longest active streak in the NFL.

> "I think he [Coach Norv Turner] fits right into this team perfectly. He knows what he's doing. He's been around. He knows what it takes to win."
>
> *—quarterback Philip Rivers on new Coach Norv Turner*

### OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER

**Michael Turner, RB**

*San Diego GM A.J. Smith offered up Turner during the NFL Draft, but the asking price (reportedly a first- and third-round pick) was too high, so the backup RB was re-signed to a one-year deal. Turner is almost certain to seek out a starting job elsewhere in 2008 as an unrestricted free agent.*

### FINAL GRADE

**94**

STOCK REPORT: STEADY

### KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Donnie Edwards, LB (KC)
- Az-Zahir Hakim, WR (MIA)

## CHARGERS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Elliott, Brett | QB | 6-3 | 205 | 06/11/1982 | 0 | Linfield |
| 17 | Rivers, Philip | QB | 6-5 | 228 | 12/08/1981 | 3 | N.C. State |
| 7 | Volek, Billy | QB | 6-2 | 214 | 04/28/1976 | 5 | Fresno State |
| 6 | Whitehurst, Charlie | QB | 6-4 | 225 | 08/06/1982 | 1 | Clemson |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | Binn, David | C | 6-3 | 223 | 02/06/1972 | 13 | California |
| 66 | Clary, Jeromey | T | 6-6 | 304 | 11/05/1983 | 0 | Kansas State |
| 68 | Dielman, Kris | G | 6-4 | 310 | 02/03/1981 | 4 | Indiana |
| 79 | Goff, Mike | G | 6-5 | 311 | 01/06/1976 | 9 | Iowa |
| 61 | Hardwick, Nick | C | 6-4 | 295 | 09/12/1981 | 3 | Purdue |
| 71 | Lekkerkerker, Cory | T | 6-7 | 324 | 07/25/1981 | 1 | UC Davis |
| 73 | McNeill, Marcus | T | 6-7 | 337 | 11/16/1983 | 1 | Auburn |
| 63 | Mruczkowski, Scott | C | 6-5 | 318 | 04/05/1982 | 2 | Bowling Green |
| 72 | Oben, Roman | T | 6-4 | 305 | 10/09/1972 | 11 | Louisville |
| 70 | Olivea, Shane | G | 6-4 | 312 | 10/07/1981 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 73 | Pape, Tony | T | 6-6 | 310 | 09/29/1981 | 0 | Michigan |
| 65 | Withrow, Cory | C | 6-2 | 287 | 04/05/1975 | 7 | Washington State |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | Gross, Tyronne | RB | 5-8 | 215 | 05/14/1983 | 0 | Eastern Oregon |
| 41 | Neal, Lorenzo | RB | 5-11 | 255 | 12/27/1970 | 14 | Fresno State |
| 34 | Pinnock, Andrew | RB | 5-10 | 250 | 03/12/1980 | 4 | South Carolina |
| 43 | Sproles, Darren | RB | 5-6 | 181 | 06/20/1983 | 1 | Kansas State |
| 21 | Tomlinson, LaDainian | RB | 5-10 | 221 | 06/23/1979 | 6 | TCU |
| 33 | Turner, Michael | RB | 5-10 | 237 | 02/13/1982 | 3 | Northern Illinois |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 82 | Camarillo, Greg | WR | 6-1 | 190 | 04/18/1982 | 1 | Stanford |
| 45 | Cottrell, T.J. | TE | 6-5 | 245 | 05/03/1982 | 0 | Buffalo State |
| 80 | Floyd, Malcom | WR | 6-5 | 225 | 09/08/1981 | 2 | Wyoming |
| 85 | Gates, Antonio | TE | 6-4 | 260 | 06/18/1980 | 4 | Kent State |
| 46 | Griffeth, Kelly | TE | 6-5 | 270 | 04/11/1982 | 0 | Fort Hays State |
| 83 | Jackson, Vincent | WR | 6-5 | 241 | 01/14/1983 | 2 | Northern Colorado |
| 86 | Manumaleuna, Brandon | TE | 6-2 | 288 | 01/04/1980 | 6 | Arizona |
| 81 | Osgood, Kassim | WR | 6-5 | 220 | 05/20/1980 | 4 | San Diego State |
| 88 | Parker, Eric | WR | 6-0 | 180 | 04/14/1979 | 5 | Tennessee |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 97 | Bingham, Ryon | DT | 6-3 | 303 | 06/06/1981 | 2 | Nebraska |
| 93 | Castillo, Luis | DT | 6-3 | 290 | 08/04/1983 | 2 | Northwestern |
| 74 | Cesaire, Jacques | DE | 6-2 | 295 | 08/30/1980 | 4 | S. Connecticut St. |
| 91 | McKinney, Brandon | DT | 6-3 | 315 | 08/24/1983 | 1 | Michigan State |
| 99 | Olshansky, Igor | DE | 6-6 | 309 | 05/03/1982 | 3 | Oregon |
| 98 | Robinson, Derreck | DE | 6-4 | 289 | 03/03/1982 | 2 | Iowa |
| 76 | Williams, Jamal | DT | 6-3 | 348 | 04/28/1976 | 9 | Oklahoma State |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31 | Cromartie, Antonio | CB | 6-3 | 207 | 04/15/1984 | 1 | Florida State |
| 29 | Florence, Drayton | CB | 6-0 | 195 | 12/19/1980 | 4 | Tuskegee |
| 38 | Franklin, Gabe | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 06/28/1982 | 0 | Boise State |
| 24 | Gordon, Cletis | CB | 6-1 | 197 | 04/23/1983 | 1 | Jackson State |
| 28 | Gregory, Steve | CB | 5-11 | 178 | 01/08/1983 | 1 | Syracuse |
| 42 | Hart, Clinton | S | 6-0 | 205 | 07/20/1977 | 4 | Central Florida CC |
| 23 | Jammer, Quentin | CB | 6-0 | 204 | 06/19/1979 | 5 | Texas |
| 27 | Jue, Bhawoh | S | 6-0 | 200 | 05/24/1979 | 6 | Penn State |
| 20 | McCree, Marlon | S | 5-11 | 202 | 03/17/1977 | 6 | Kentucky |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 47 | Archer, Phil | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 04/22/1981 | 0 | Western Illinois |
| 54 | Cooper, Stephen | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 06/19/1979 | 4 | Maine |
| 51 | Dobbins, Tim | LB | 6-1 | 247 | 12/10/1982 | 1 | Iowa State |
| 92 | Harris, Marques | LB | 6-1 | 231 | 09/20/1981 | 2 | Southern Utah |
| 56 | Merriman, Shawne | LB | 6-4 | 272 | 05/25/1984 | 2 | Maryland |
| 95 | Phillips, Shaun | LB | 6-3 | 262 | 05/13/1981 | 3 | Purdue |
| 52 | Polk, Carlos | LB | 6-2 | 262 | 02/22/1977 | 5 | Nebraska |
| 57 | Wilhelm, Matt | LB | 6-4 | 245 | 02/02/1981 | 4 | Ohio State |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Kaeding, Nate | K | 6-0 | 187 | 03/26/1982 | 3 | Iowa |
| 5 | Scifres, Mike | P | 6-2 | 236 | 10/08/1980 | 4 | Western Illinois |

**NORV TURNER**, HEAD COACH

**Clarence Shelmon**, off. coord.; **Ted Cottrell**, def. coord.; **Clancy Barone**, tight ends; **Bill Bradley**, secondary; **Steve Crosby**, special teams; **John Henry**, off. line; **Hal Hunter**, off line; **James Lofton**, wide receivers; **Wayne Nunnely**, def. line; **John Pagano**, outside linebackers; **John Ramsdell**, quarterbacks; **Ron Rivera**, inside linebackers; **Matt Simon**, running backs

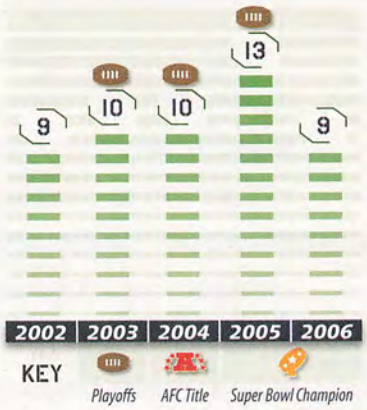
# DENVER

# 2

**AFC WEST**

2006 Record: 9-7
www.denverbroncos.com
**INVESCO FIELD AT MILE HIGH**
Capacity: 76,125 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 720-258-3333

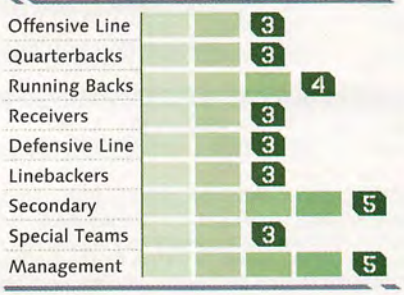
## 5-YEAR WINS TREND




## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Jay Cutler |
| FB | Paul Smith |
| RB | Travis Henry |
| LT | Matt Lepsis |
| LG | Ben Hamilton |
| C | Tom Nalen |
| RG | Montrae Holland |
| RT | Erik Pears |
| TE | Daniel Graham |
| WR | Javon Walker |
| WR | Brandon Marshall |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Jarvis Moss |
| LT | Gerard Warren |
| RT | Marcus Thomas |
| RE | Ebezener Ekuban |
| LLB | Warrick Holdman |
| MLB | D.J. Williams |
| RLB | Ian Gold |
| LCB | Champ Bailey |
| RCB | Dré Bly |
| SS | Nick Ferguson |
| FS | John Lynch |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Todd Sauerbrun |
| K | Jason Elam |
| PR | Domenik Hixon |
| KR | Domenik Hixon |

## POWER RATINGS



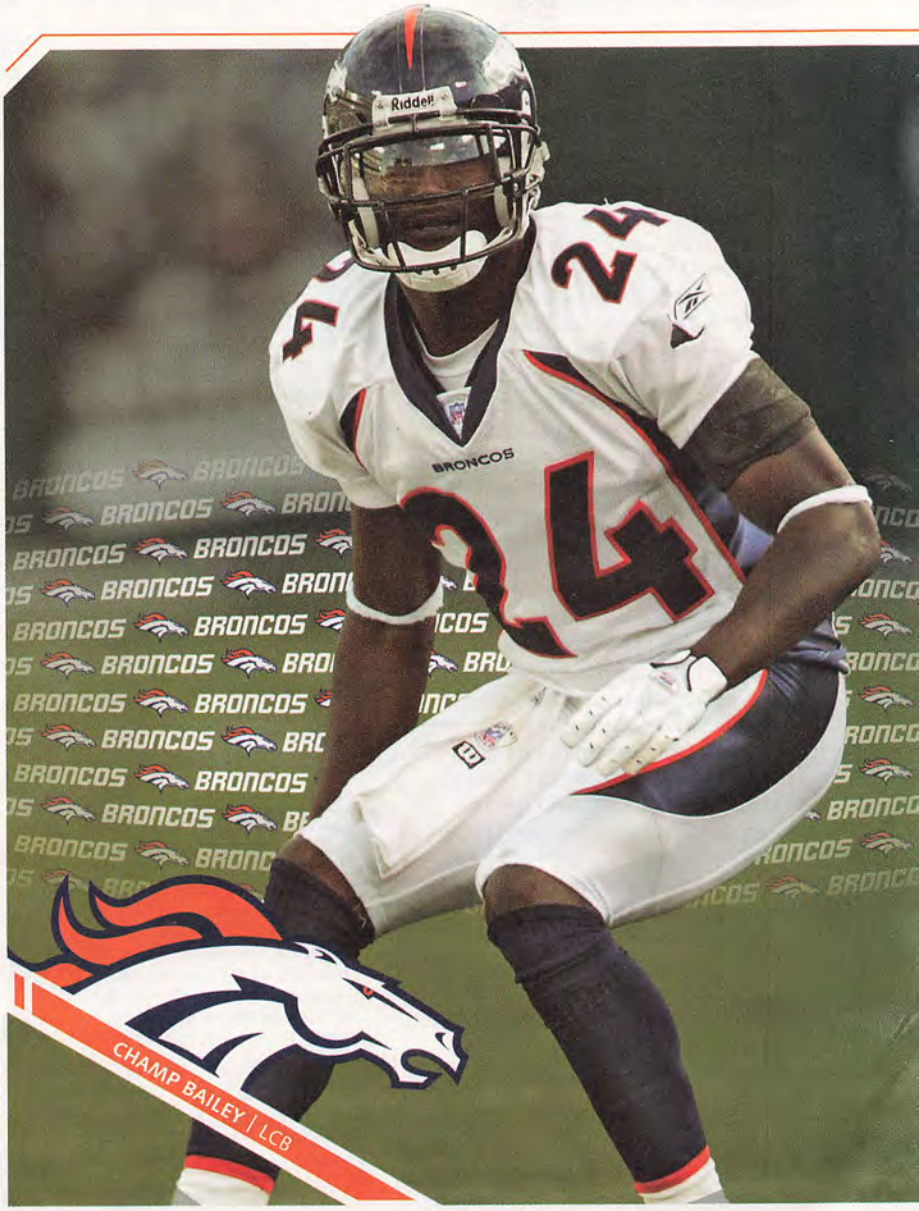

## Playing with a purpose

The tragic offseason deaths of Darrent Williams and Damien Nash left the Broncos determined to make 2007 a season worth remembering.

The Broncos will be like no other NFL team this year because of what they dealt with early in the offseason. Inspiration for 2007 began in Denver three days after the disappointing 2006 season ended.

As 12 teams prepared for the playoffs and 19 others looked to the upcoming season, the Broncos cried together.

In a room usually designed for group film work and team meetings, the future of the Broncos began to meld last Jan. 3. Two days after her son Darrent was senselessly killed after innocently celebrating the New Year,




ROB HOLT / SPORTPICS

Rosalind Williams gallantly stood in front of a group of usually fearless men.

They had tears in their eyes.

Strong and undeterred, Rosalind Williams told the Broncos that they needed to go out and win and win big this next season. Darrent Williams would be watching, she said.

Broncos owner Pat Bowlen and Coach Mike Shanahan took her words to heart. They will never forget it.

The theme of 2007 in Denver will surely be "playing for lost friends." Tragically, the Broncos won't just be playing for just the memory of Williams, the spunky, cocky, lovable kid who was the team's right cornerback and punt returner the past two seasons.

Fifty-five days after Williams' death, reserve running back Damien Nash died suddenly after hosting a charity basketball game in honor of his brother, who had a heart transplant in Nash's hometown of St. Louis. Like Williams, Nash was 24.

Shanahan knows the tragic losses are something the team has to deal with this season. He is prepared.

"I've told the team that we need to play for those two guys and their families," Shanahan says. "We'll be playing for them."

Bowlen says that the tragic losses spurred him to make the team better. And the Broncos certainly tried to improve in the offseason.

No NFL team was as active in signing and trading for veterans last winter. Denver brought in nine players before the draft.

In 2006, the Broncos stumbled badly after another strong start. In November they were 7-2 and had the makings of a team that could get to the AFC Championship Game for a second straight season. But the wheels fell off. Denver lost five of its final seven games to finish 9-7 and out of the AFC playoffs.

In the hours before Williams' death, the Broncos were shocked at home in an overtime loss to San Francisco. Going into the final day of the regular season, all Denver needed to do was beat the 49ers, who were out of the playoffs and playing for nothing but pride. But it was San Francisco that played with urgency and the Broncos who were embarrassed. The loss evened Denver's record at the usually hospitable Invesco Field at Mile High to an unacceptable 4-4. In 2005, Denver went 8-0 in the regular season at home.

"Seasons like that won't be tolerated," Bowlen says.

So Denver went on a spree.

## DRAFT REPORT

The Broncos entered the draft looking to upgrade the pass rush and did so with the additions of **Jarvis Moss** and **Tim Crowder**. Both have a good chance to start as rookies and should combine for 10-15 sacks next season. A 2008 third-round draft choice was sent to Minnesota for talented, but troubled, DT **Marcus Thomas**. The only other draft selection was former Notre Dame OT **Ryan Harris**. Matt Lepsis and Adam Meadows are both 33, making it time for an eventual replacement to be added. The only surprise here was that linebacker was not addressed.

**GRADE B+**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 17 | Moss, Jarvis | DE | 6-6 | 251 | Florida |
| 2 | 24 | Crowder, Tim | DE | 6-4 | 270 | Texas |
| 3 | 6 | Harris, Ryan | T | 6-5 | 292 | Notre Dame |
| 4 | 22 | Thomas, Marcus | DT | 6-3 | 296 | Florida |

The biggest impact players brought in were running back Travis Henry, tight end Daniel Graham and cornerback Dré Bly.

With rookie quarterback Jay Cutler cutting his NFL teeth last year, the Broncos' brass considers the 2006 season a fluke. The team thought it was just a few impact players away. Shahahan says they are now comfortable going into this season.

"A tight end is an impact position for us, and we needed a standout running back and another cornerback," he says. "We think we addressed our biggest issues."

The new additions will certainly take pressure off of Cutler, who'll be the story of the season.

In his limited action as a rookie, the former Vanderbilt star appeared ready for the limelight. Denver traded up to take Cutler at No. 11 last April and it immediately changed the Broncos' season even though the gunslinger didn't replace incumbent QB Jake Plummer until the 11th game. It was an instant controversy that Plummer didn't handle well. He was off-kilter all season. Close to the end of his tenure, he admitted that Cutler's presence made it difficult on him.

## THE BOOK ON ... Champ Bailey *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Champ Bailey is one of the top five players in the NFL. He is by far the best cornerback in the league and simply one of the best players in the league. He changes games just by being on the field. What he does is shut down half the field. No one throws his way. He had about 30 balls thrown in his direction last season and he intercepted 10 of them. The guy is dominant. ...

"What makes him so special is that he is also great against the run. Not only is this guy a shutdown corner in the passing game, he comes up and makes great plays against the run. He is a spectacular tackler. You can tell the guy really works at the game. He is stunning."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** @ *Buffalo*
SEPT. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 2** vs. *Oakland*
SEPT. 16 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 3** vs. *Jacksonville*
SEPT. 23 | 4:05
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 4** @ *Indianapolis*
SEPT. 30 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 5** vs. *San Diego*
OCT. 7 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 6** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 7** vs. *Pittsburgh*
OCT. 21 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 8** vs. *Green Bay*
OCT. 29 | 8:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 9** @ *Detroit*
NOV. 4 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 10** @ *Kansas City*
NOV. 11 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 11** vs. *Tennessee*
NOV. 19 | 8:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 12** @ *Chicago*
NOV. 25 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 13** @ *Oakland*
DEC. 2 | 4:05
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 14** vs. *Kansas City*
DEC. 9 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 15** @ *Houston*
DEC. 13 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 16** @ *San Diego*
DEC. 24 | 8:00
**MUST-SEE GAME**
*This game will likely have major playoff implications for both teams. The Broncos may need it more than the Chargers and must play near perfect to win on this holiday night.*
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 17** vs. *Minnesota*
DEC. 30 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 10-18 | at St. Louis |
| 09/17 | W | 9-6 | Kansas City |
| 09/24 | W | 17-7 | at New England |
| 10/09 | W | 13-3 | Baltimore |
| 10/15 | W | 13-3 | Oakland |
| 10/22 | W | 17-7 | at Cleveland |
| 10/29 | L | 31-34 | Indianapolis |
| 11/05 | W | 31-20 | at Pittsburgh |
| 11/12 | W | 17-13 | at Oakland |
| 11/19 | L | 27-35 | San Diego |
| 11/23 | L | 10-19 | at Kansas City |
| 12/03 | L | 20-23 | Seattle |
| 12/10 | L | 20-48 | at San Diego |
| 12/17 | W | 37-20 | at Arizona |
| 12/24 | W | 24-23 | Cincinnati |
| 12/31 | L | 23-26 | San Francisco |

**WON 9, LOST 7**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T. Bell | 233 | 1025 | 4.4 | 51 | 2 |
| M. Bell | 157 | 677 | 4.3 | 48 | 8 |
| Walker | 9 | 123 | 13.7 | 72t | 1 |
| Plummer | 36 | 112 | 3.1 | 19 | 1 |
| Sapp | 10 | 80 | 8.0 | 28 | 0 |
| Nash | 18 | 66 | 3.7 | 26 | 0 |
| Johnson | 5 | 30 | 6.0 | 15 | 0 |
| Cutler | 12 | 18 | 1.5 | 9 | 0 |
| Marshall | 2 | 12 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Cobbs | 3 | 9 | 3.0 | 5 | 0 |
| Scheffler | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Elam | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Smith | 1 | -5 | -5.0 | -5 | 0 |
| **Broncos** | 488 | 2152 | 4.4 | 72t | 12 |
| **Opponents** | 447 | 1813 | 4.1 | 41 | 13 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Walker | 69 | 1084 | 15.7 | 83 | 8 |
| Smith | 52 | 512 | 9.8 | 20 | 3 |
| T. Bell | 24 | 115 | 4.8 | 16 | 0 |
| Marshall | 20 | 309 | 15.5 | 71 | 2 |
| M. Bell | 20 | 158 | 7.9 | 24 | 0 |
| Scheffler | 18 | 286 | 15.9 | 29 | 4 |
| Alexander | 18 | 160 | 8.9 | 24 | 2 |
| Kircus | 9 | 187 | 20.8 | 45 | 0 |
| Sapp | 8 | 34 | 4.3 | 9 | 0 |
| Johnson | 7 | 37 | 5.3 | 20 | 1 |
| Jackson | 5 | 49 | 9.8 | 24 | 0 |
| Nash | 4 | 41 | 10.3 | 13 | 0 |
| Mustard | 2 | 23 | 11.5 | 14 | 0 |
| **Broncos** | 256 | 2995 | 11.7 | 83t | 20 |
| **Opponents** | 327 | 3612 | 11.0 | 63 | 13 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plummer | 317 | 175 | 1994 | 11 | 13 |
| Cutler | 137 | 81 | 1001 | 9 | 5 |
| **Broncos** | 454 | 256 | 2995 | 20 | 18 |
| **Opponents** | 538 | 327 | 3612 | 13 | 17 |

**SACKS**

Dumervil 8.5, Ekuban 7, Lang 6, Chukwurah 4.5, Warren 2.5, M. Myers 2, Veal 1.5, Engelberger 1, D.J. Williams 1, Wilson 1

**BRONCOS 35, OPPONENTS 31**

Shanahan has coached Hall-of-Famers Joe Montana, Steve Young and John Elway. He wanted to coach another superstar. That's why he drafted Cutler, whom he thinks can be a star. Cutler will certainly get the opportunity. He was given a long leash when he played last season. What's more, the coaching staff trusts Cutler and loves that big gun of his.

Cutler has a much better supporting cast this season. Henry will be a key. Quietly, the team believes Henry can be a 1,500-yard rusher, as he perfectly fits the Broncos' mold of a one-cut runner who hits the hole quickly.

"This is the perfect spot for me," the former University of Tennessee standout says. "I've always wanted to run in this offense."

Denver's vaunted running game slipped last year with Tatum Bell as the starter, so he was traded to Detroit with tackle George Foster for Bly. The running game lacked authority, especially in short-yardage and clock-eating situations. Along with Henry, Shanahan believes the signing of Graham will help change that. Graham left New England for a $30 million deal. He is a superb blocker and should fit in with Denver's traditionally solid offensive line to help break Henry loose. Graham can also help in the receiving game, along with second-year tight end Tony Scheffler, who emerged with Cutler, his training-camp roommate, as a solid rookie receiver.

The Broncos will need receiving help from their tight ends because their wideout core has some issues. The No. 1 wide receiver, Javon Walker, is solid and should be more dangerous in his second season with Denver. Coming off a torn ACL he suffered in the first game of 2005 while with Green Bay, Walker had 69 catches and eight touchdowns last year.

Second-year player Brandon Marshall will get the chance to be the No. 2 receiver, but will have to beat out veteran Rod Smith. The 6-4, 230-pound Marshall proved to be a dominant weapon at times as a rookie. Smith, coming off of hip surgery, and former Indianapolis slot

### DID YOU KNOW

The Broncos have produced 11 individual 1,000-yard rushing seasons since 1995, the most by any team during that 11-year period.

Mike Shanahan is one of only three coaches (along with Paul Brown and John Madden) in professional football history to have accumulated more Super Bowl wins than losing seasons in at least 10 years with one team. Shanahan has two championships (1997, 1998) and one losing season (6-10, 1999) in 12 years as the head coach of the Broncos.

### BRONCOS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Rod Smith** (1995-present)

*With 849 receptions for 11,389 yards and 68 touchdowns, Smith is Denver's all-time leader in each category and total yards from scrimmage.*

**2 Lionel Taylor** (1960-1966)

*Taylor was an original member of the Denver Broncos and led the AFL in receptions for five of its first six seasons, finishing with 567 on his career.*

**3 Ed McCaffrey** (1995-2003)

*McCaffrey won two of his three Super Bowls with the Broncos, his toughness and sure hands making him one of John Elway's most reliable targets.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**BRANDON MARSHALL**
wide receiver

Marshall will have every chance to win the No. 2 receiver job over fading veteran Rod Smith. He would be the perfect complement to No. 1 receiver Javon Walker. Marshall, like quarterback Jay Cutler, is in his second year and the two could have a beautiful career together. Marshall is a physical beast at 6-4 and 230 pounds, runs well and has great hands. He could be a star.

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Broncos)*

"Can they bounce back and be a Super Bowl contender again or will they miss the playoffs again? I think you have to consider the Broncos a playoff team. They made a lot of tweaks and changes, but there is still a strong nucleus there. ... You've got to like the addition of Travis Henry and Daniel Graham to that offense. The running game should be back on track. Jay Cutler has a huge arm and tightening up the running game is only going to help him emerge. Watch for this offense to score a lot of points. ... Defensively, they have to find a pass rusher. They have a great pair of corners in Champ Bailey and Dré Bly, but you need a push up front. ... Bringing in Jim Bates to run the defense will help. Bates always makes defenses better."

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 309.4 | 21 | Total Defense | 325.9 | 14 |
| Rushing | 134.5 | 8 | Against Rush | 113.3 | 12 |
| Passing | 174.9 | 25 | Against Pass | 212.6 | 21 |
| Scoring | 319 | 17 | Points Allowed | 305 | 8t |
| Punt Returns | 9.2 | 12 | Interceptions | 17 | 13t |
| Kick Returns | 22.0 | 23 | Sacks | 35 | 15t |
| Red Zone TD % | 54.5 | 12 | Turnover Diff. | 0 | 17t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 285 | 106 | 151 | 28 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 44 | 225 | 24 | 19 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 20 | 0 | 2 |

star Brandon Stokley, who is recovering from a ruptured Achilles' tendon, will vie to be key reserves.

Defensively, Denver's biggest acquisition may be new Assistant Head Coach Jim Bates. He replaces the fired Larry Coyer as coordinator. Bates has succeeded at every step and the Broncos hope his basic, but aggressive, approach will help turn around the defense. That defense allowed just 34 points in the first six games last season, but faded badly down the stretch.

The key on the defensive side will be cornerback Champ Bailey. He is a superstar who is getting better at the age of 29, with 10 interceptions to show for it last season. Opponents threw at him only about 35 times all season.

The addition of Bly should help Bailey. While Bly is not of Bailey's caliber, he is an above-average corner who should help significantly and will replace Williams. Third-year player Domonique Foxworth is a very capable nickel back. Veterans John Lynch and Nick Ferguson should continue to play well at safety.

The linebacking corps will have a new look after the release of injury-prone middle linebacker Al Wilson. D.J. Williams may be moved inside from outside to replace Wilson. Ian Gold will start at strongside and veteran journeyman Nate Webster may get a chance to play.

The Broncos hope Bates' biggest impact will be on the defensive line, where a more consistent pass rush is needed. Defensive tackle Gerard Warren is coming off an off-season because of toe injuries, but he is the best lineman on the roster. The Broncos used three of their top four draft picks on defensive linemen—Jarvis Moss, Tim Crowder and Marcus Thomas—in an effort to spark the pass rush. They are also hopeful holdover defensive ends Ebenezer Ekuban, Kenard Lang and Elvis Dumervil will step up their performance.

**FINAL GRADE**

**86**

STOCK REPORT: UP

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Travis Henry**, RB (TEN)

*Henry was the running back Denver targeted all along. The team believes that he is the perfect player for its system. He is a downhill runner who can punish people and runs with authority. He could be a 1,500-yard rusher.*

- Dré Bly, CB (trade, DET)
- Daniel Graham, TE (NE)
- Montrae Holland, OG (NO)
- Patrick Ramsey, QB (NYJ)
- Paul Smith, FB (STL)
- Dan Wilkinson, DT (trade, MIA)
- Alvin McKinley, DE (CLE)
- Brandon Stokley, WR (IND)
- Todd Sauerbrun, P (NE)
- Warrick Holdman, LB (WAS)
- D.D. Lewis, LB (SEA)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Tatum Bell, RB (trade, DET)
- George Foster, OT (trade, DET)
- Jake Plummer, QB (trade, TB)
- Patrick Chukwurah, LB (TB)
- Cooper Carlisle, OG (OAK)
- Michael Myers, DT (CIN)

## THE COUNT

**6**

Interceptions by Champ Bailey inside the Denver four-yard line last year.

**11**

Consecutive seasons the Broncos have gone without a losing division record, the longest active streak in the NFL.

**4**

Consecutive games in which quarterback Jay Cutler threw multiple touchdown passes to begin his NFL career, the most ever by a rookie.

## BRONCOS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | Cutler, Jay | QB | 6-3 | 233 | 04/29/1983 | 1 | Vanderbilt |
| 5 | Parsons, Preston | QB | 6-4 | 232 | 02/19/1979 | 0 | Northern Arizona |
| 8 | Ramsey, Patrick | QB | 6-2 | 225 | 02/14/1979 | 5 | Tulane |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 67 | Eslinger, Greg | C | 6-3 | 291 | 04/23/1983 | 0 | Minnesota |
| 50 | Hamilton, Ben | G | 6-4 | 283 | 08/18/1977 | 5 | Minnesota |
| 70 | Holland, Montrae | G | 6-2 | 322 | 05/21/1980 | 4 | Florida State |
| 63 | Hunt, Rob | G | 6-3 | 298 | 03/03/1981 | 0 | North Dakota State |
| 73 | Kuper, Chris | G | 6-4 | 302 | 12/19/1982 | 0 | North Dakota |
| 78 | Lepsis, Matt | T | 6-4 | 290 | 01/13/1974 | 9 | Colorado |
| 75 | Meadows, Adam | T | 6-5 | 290 | 01/25/1974 | 8 | Georgia |
| 62 | Myers, Chris | C | 6-4 | 300 | 09/15/1981 | 2 | Miami (FL) |
| 66 | Nalen, Tom | C | 6-3 | 286 | 05/13/1971 | 13 | Boston College |
| 64 | Pears, Erik | T | 6-8 | 305 | 06/25/1982 | 1 | Colorado State |
| 75 | Rogers, Jacob | T | 6-6 | 305 | 08/17/1981 | 1 | USC |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30 | Bell, Mike | RB | 6-0 | 220 | 04/23/1983 | 1 | Arizona |
| 34 | Fleming, Troy | RB | 6-0 | 245 | 10/01/1980 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 23 | Hall, Andre | RB | 5-10 | 205 | 08/20/1982 | 0 | South Florida |
| 20 | Henry, Travis | RB | 5-9 | 215 | 10/29/1978 | 6 | Tennessee |
| 39 | Johnson, Kyle | RB | 6-0 | 242 | 12/15/1978 | 3 | Syracuse |
| 29 | Nash, Damien | RB | 5-10 | 220 | 04/14/1982 | 2 | Missouri |
| 37 | Sapp, Cecil | RB | 5-11 | 229 | 12/23/1978 | 4 | Colorado State |
| 26 | Smith, Paul | RB | 5-11 | 237 | 01/31/1978 | 6 | UTEP |

| # | RECEIVERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 82 | Alexander, Stephen | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 11/07/1975 | 9 | Oklahoma |
| 19 | Clark, Brian | WR | 6-3 | 205 | 12/26/1983 | 1 | N.C. State |
| 89 | Graham, Daniel | TE | 6-3 | 257 | 11/16/1978 | 5 | Colorado |
| 12 | Hixon, Domenik | WR | 6-2 | 192 | 10/08/1984 | 0 | Akron |
| 81 | Jackson, Nate | TE | 6-3 | 235 | 06/04/1979 | 4 | Menlo |
| 47 | Johnson, Teyo | TE | 6-6 | 260 | 11/29/1981 | 3 | Stanford |
| 87 | Kircus, David | WR | 6-2 | 192 | 02/19/1980 | 3 | Grand Valley State |
| 83 | Leach, Mike | TE | 6-2 | 245 | 10/18/1976 | 7 | William & Mary |
| 15 | Marshall, Brandon | WR | 6-4 | 222 | 03/23/1984 | 1 | UCF |
| 11 | Morgan, Quincy | WR | 6-1 | 215 | 09/23/1977 | 6 | Kansas State |
| 85 | Mustard, Chad | TE | 6-6 | 288 | 10/08/1977 | 3 | North Dakota |
| 88 | Scheffler, Tony | TE | 6-5 | 250 | 02/15/1983 | 1 | Western Michigan |
| 80 | Smith, Rod | WR | 6-0 | 200 | 05/15/1970 | 12 | Missouri Southern St. |
| 14 | Stokley, Brandon | WR | 5-11 | 197 | 06/23/1976 | 8 | Louisiana-Lafayette |
| 13 | Terrell, David | WR | 6-3 | 212 | 03/13/1979 | 5 | Michigan |
| 84 | Walker, Javon | WR | 6-3 | 209 | 10/14/1978 | 5 | Florida State |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 93 | Burton, Antwon | DT | 6-3 | 315 | 07/11/1983 | 1 | Temple |
| 92 | Dumervil, Elvis | DE | 5-11 | 250 | 01/19/1984 | 1 | Louisville |
| 91 | Ekuban, Ebenezer | DE | 6-3 | 275 | 05/29/1976 | 8 | North Carolina |
| 60 | Engelberger, John | DE | 6-4 | 252 | 10/18/1976 | 7 | Virginia Tech |
| 98 | Hall, Carlos | DE | 6-4 | 259 | 01/16/1979 | 4 | Arkansas |
| 76 | Lang, Kenard | DE | 6-3 | 264 | 01/31/1975 | 10 | Miami (FL) |
| 99 | McKinley, Alvin | DT | 6-3 | 294 | 06/09/1978 | 7 | Mississippi State |
| 90 | Peterson, Kenny | DE | 6-3 | 285 | 11/21/1978 | 4 | Ohio State |
| 97 | Veal, Demetrin | DT | 6-2 | 288 | 08/11/1981 | 3 | Tennessee |
| 61 | Warren, Gerard | DT | 6-4 | 325 | 07/25/1978 | 6 | Florida |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | Abdullah, Hamza | S | 6-2 | 216 | 08/20/1983 | 2 | Washington State |
| 24 | Bailey, Champ | CB | 6-0 | 192 | 06/22/1978 | 8 | Georgia |
| 32 | Bly, Dré | CB | 5-9 | 185 | 05/22/1977 | 8 | North Carolina |
| 42 | Brandon, Sam | S | 6-2 | 200 | 07/05/1979 | 5 | UNLV |
| 38 | Cargile, Steve | S | 6-1 | 201 | 06/02/1982 | 1 | Columbia |
| 40 | Cox, Curome | S | 6-1 | 204 | 02/28/1981 | 2 | Maryland |
| 25 | Ferguson, Nick | S | 5-11 | 201 | 11/27/1974 | 7 | Georgia Tech |
| 22 | Foxworth, Domonique | CB | 5-11 | 180 | 03/27/1983 | 2 | Maryland |
| 31 | Harris, Quentin | S | 6-1 | 213 | 01/26/1977 | 5 | Syracuse |
| 47 | Lynch, John | S | 6-2 | 220 | 09/25/1971 | 14 | Stanford |
| 41 | Paymah, Karl | CB | 6-0 | 200 | 11/29/1982 | 2 | Washington State |
| 20 | Reid, Lamont | CB | 5-11 | 195 | 05/04/1982 | 1 | N.C. State |

| # | LINEBACKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 52 | Gold, Ian | LB | 6-0 | 223 | 08/23/1978 | 7 | Michigan |
| 53 | Green, Louis | LB | 6-3 | 228 | 09/23/1979 | 3 | Alcorn State |
| 57 | Holdman, Warrick | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 11/22/1975 | 8 | Texas A&M |
| 57 | Hollowell, T.J. | LB | 6-0 | 235 | 04/08/1981 | 2 | Nebraska |
| 54 | Lewis, D.D. | LB | 6-1 | 241 | 01/08/1979 | 4 | Texas |
| 59 | Vaughn, Cameron | LB | 6-4 | 237 | 02/27/1984 | 0 | LSU |
| 58 | Webster, Nate | LB | 6-0 | 237 | 11/29/1977 | 7 | Miami (FL) |
| 55 | Williams, D.J. | LB | 6-1 | 242 | 07/20/1982 | 3 | Miami (FL) |

| # | KICKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Elam, Jason | K | 5-11 | 200 | 03/08/1970 | 14 | Hawaii |
| 3 | Ernster, Paul | P | 6-0 | 217 | 01/26/1982 | 2 | Northern Arizona |
| 10 | Sauerbrun, Todd | P | 5-10 | 215 | 01/04/1973 | 12 | West Virginia |

**MIKE SHANAHAN**, HEAD COACH

**Mike Heimerdinger**, asst. head coach/quarterbacks; **Jim Bates**, asst. head coach/def.; **Rick Dennison**, off. coord./off. line; **Bob Slowik**, def. coord./def. backs; **Joe Baker**, linebackers; **Jeremy Bates**, wide receivers/quarterbacks; **Ronnie Bradford**, asst. def. backs; **Jacob Burney**, def. line; **Bill Johnson**, def. line; **Pat McPherson**, tight ends; **Scott O'Brien**, special team coord.; **Bobby Turner**, running backs; **Steve Watson**, assoc. head coach

# KANSAS CITY

# 3

**AFC WEST**

2006 Record: 9-7
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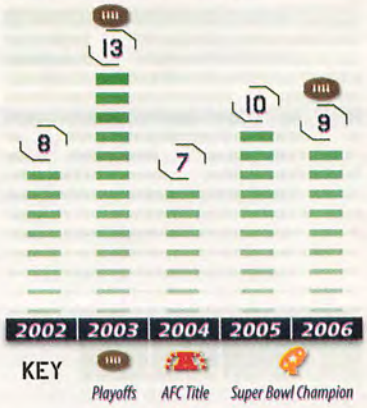
Tickets: 816-920-9400

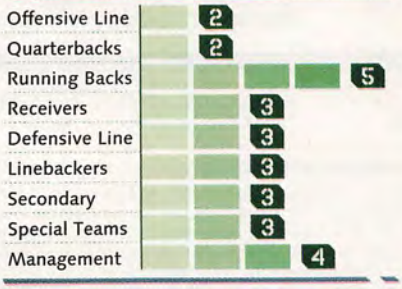
## 5-YEAR WINS TREND




## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Brodie Croyle |
| FB | Ronnie Cruz |
| RB | Larry Johnson |
| LT | Damion McIntosh |
| LG | Brian Waters |
| C | Casey Wiegmann |
| RG | John Welbourn |
| RT | Chris Terry |
| TE | Tony Gonzalez |
| WR | Samie Parker |
| WR | Dwayne Bowe |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Tamba Hali |
| LT | Ron Edwards |
| RT | James Reed |
| RE | Jared Allen |
| LLB | Derrick Johnson |
| MLB | Donnie Edwards |
| RLB | Kendrell Bell |
| LCB | Ty Law |
| RCB | Patrick Surtain |
| SS | Greg Wesley |
| FS | Jarrad Page |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Dustin Colquitt |
| K | Lawrence Tynes |
| PR | Jeff Webb |
| KR | Jeff Webb |

## POWER RATINGS




## The thin red line

The Chiefs are in the NFL no-man's land of rebuilding—walking the tightrope of introducing a young quarterback while keeping veterans aboard for another playoff run.

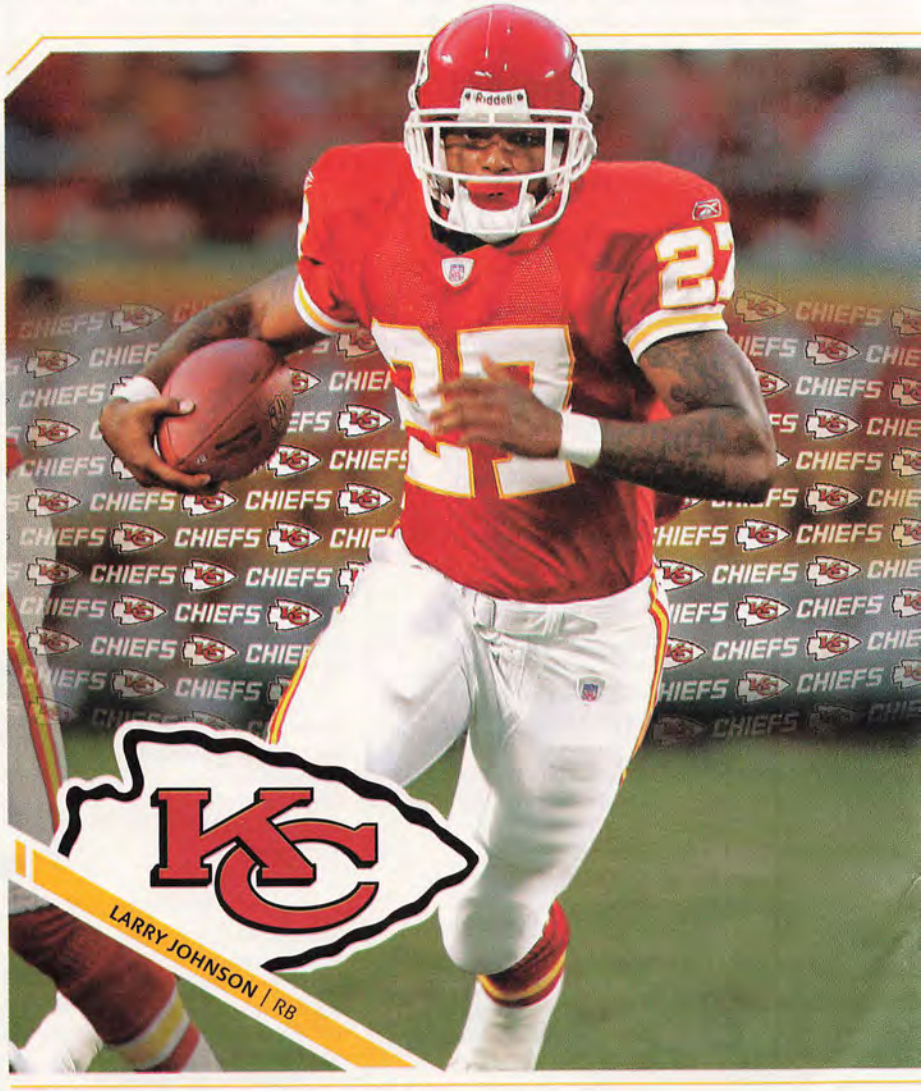
A member of Kansas City's contingent at the NFL Combine in February was hustling through the streets of Indianapolis. It wasn't the blustery Midwest day that had the man in red kicking it into overdrive. Since there were college players to evaluate, he couldn't waste time.

"We're old," said the man with the notebook. "I have to go see some players. We need to reload."

Indeed, the Chiefs are getting long in the tooth. An influx of talent is desperately needed in the Heartland.

The interesting thing about Kansas City is that it's not in a total rebuilding mode, even though there is significant work to do. In Herm Edwards' second season as coach after taking over for the retired Dick Vermeil, there will be some subtle and not-so-subtle changes.

Gone is guard Will Shields and, at press time, the team was trying hard to trade quarterback Trent Green. If Green is dealt, that is a lot of offensive experience to replace. And the defense is aging. But there is an undeniable




WALTER DIXON

## THE BOOK ON ... *Tony Gonzalez* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"This is a Hall-of-Fame player, but he is also a player on the downward slope. Don't get me wrong, Gonzalez can still be a difference-maker, but his best years may be behind him. Going into his 11th season, Gonzalez has had some injuries and he may be losing a step. But he can still help the Chiefs because of his hands and ability. He'll still be a 70-catch player and he will help win games. But the days of Gonzalez carrying Kansas City may be over. With Larry Johnson getting fewer carries, Gonzalez will be asked to do more. It will be interesting to see if he can do it on an every-game basis."

dose of youth, especially at quarterback, where second-year pro Brodie Croyle is set to start no matter what happens with Green.

Yes, Kansas City is both old and breaking in a new quarterback. It's a strange combination when you consider that the Chiefs made a late-season surge last year, producing a playoff appearance that ended with a flop at Indianapolis in the wild-card game.

So, do the Chiefs want to continue with being a veteran team bent on a playoff run or is Edwards intent on a youth movement? Is this a playoff team or an also-ran?

The answer is probably somewhere in-between. One can't deny that Kansas City still has top-flight talent on the roster. Running back Larry Johnson, who set an NFL record for rushing attempts with 416 last year, was good for 1,789 yards and, fortunately, is still in his prime. At 31, tight end Tony Gonzalez still has to be accounted for. He had 73 catches in 2006, the eighth straight season he's recorded at least 60 receptions. Linebacker Derrick Johnson is a leader of the defense and cornerback Ty Law showed last season he still has something left in the tank.

And Edwards seems to have a nice hold on this team, bringing the same mix of passion and player rapport to Kansas City as he did with the Jets. The fact that the Chiefs responded to their first-year coach in December, winning their last two games to qualify for the playoffs, was a good sign.

However, there are plenty of issues here. First, of all, the offensive line, once the class of the NFL, is a new and evolving bunch that doesn't have the same cache it once did.

Of course, the biggest issue is at quarterback. Croyle came out of the University of Alabama with promise. Scouts liked his moxie and ability to read defenses. But he was no sure thing when the Chiefs drafted him in the third round last year. He has never been confused with fellow Crimson Tide alums Joe Namath and Ken Stabler, but Croyle is the future of the Chiefs, apparently starting now.

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### CHIEFS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

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### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**SAMIE PARKER**
wide receiver

Parker is one of the Chiefs' younger regulars at 26. In 2006, his third NFL season, he produced 41 catches. He'll have a chance to make more in this system and could be the go-to receiver. He has decent speed and can be a long-play maker.

### DID YOU KNOW

After leading the Chiefs to the playoffs in 2006, Herm Edwards became just the fifth coach in NFL history to guide two different teams to the postseason in his first year. He took the New York Jets to the playoffs in 2001.

Since 2005, Kansas City has forced at least one turnover in 19 straight games, the longest current streak in the league.

The Chiefs were one of 11 teams that started the 2006 season 0-2 and the only one of those to reach the playoffs.

### THE COUNT

| 4 | 11.9 | 3,539 |
|---|---|---|
| The number of 2006 playoff teams Kansas City will face on the road in 2007 (Chicago, Indianapolis, New York Jets and San Diego). | Last season's passer rating for second-year quarterback Brodie Croyle, who is expected to compete for the Chiefs starting job in 2007. | Rushing yards by Larry Johnson since 2005, the highest total in the NFL over the last two seasons. |

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HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

# OAKLAND

# 4

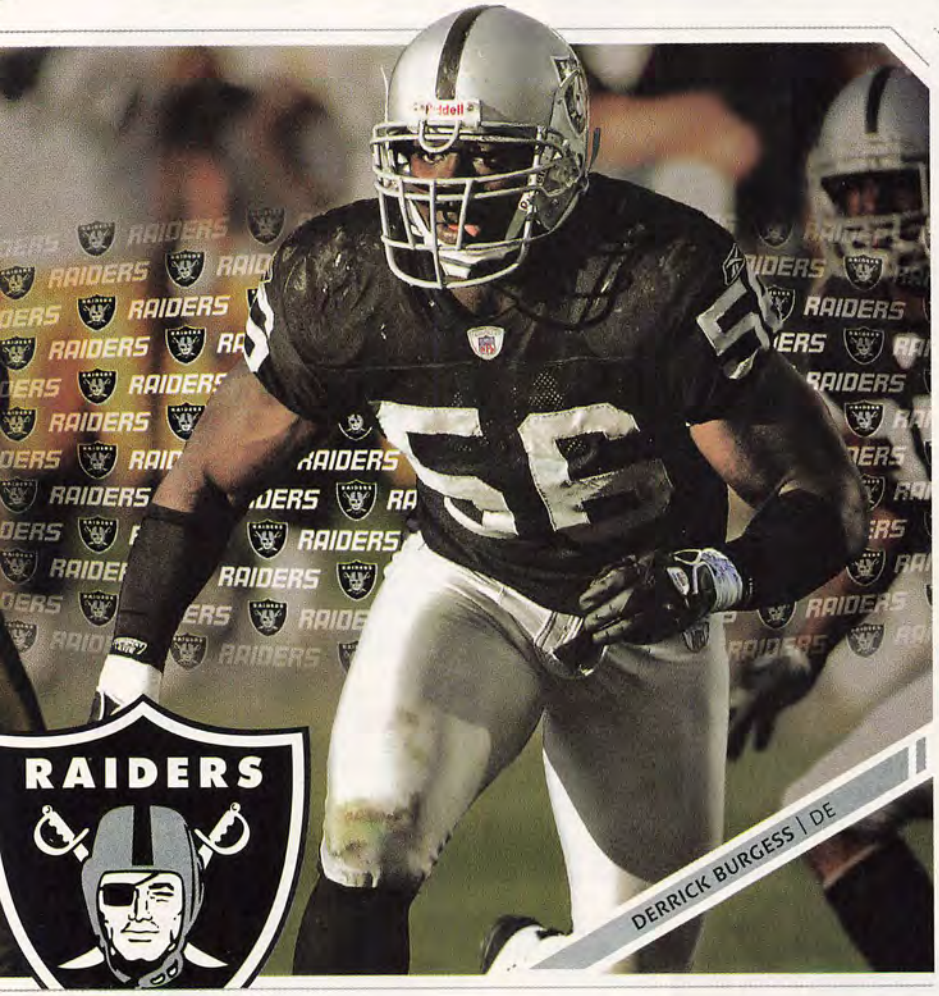
**AFC WEST**

- 2006 Record: 2-14

www.raiders.com

- McAFEE COLISEUM

Capacity: 63,126 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 800-RAIDERS




## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | JaMarcus Russell |
| FB | Justin Griffith |
| RB | Dominic Rhodes |
| LT | Barry Sims |
| LG | Kevin Boothe |
| C | Jake Grove |
| RG | Cooper Carlisle |
| RT | Chad Slaughter |
| TE | Zach Miller |
| WR | Ronald Curry |
| WR | Jerry Porter |
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| LE | Tyler Brayton |
| LT | Warren Sapp |
| RT | Tommy Kelly |
| RE | Derrick Burgess |
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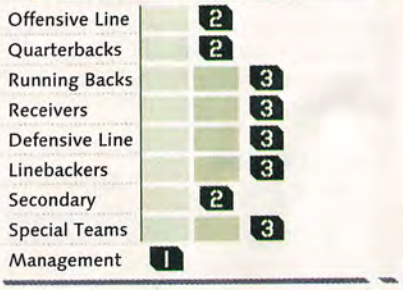


JOHN PYLE

## The black hole

With the youngest coach in the NFL, Lane Kiffin, at the controls, owner Al Davis hopes the third time's a charm in hiring baby-faced coaches.

Al Davis—the man still has a commanding presence—can turn an otherwise bustling area into his own captive showroom. Every time he made a brief appearance during March's NFL owners meetings in Phoenix, chats stopped and crowds gathered.

It's Al. It's instant entertainment.

During a conversation, dominated as usual by Al, someone mentioned to Davis that his precocious new coach, Lane Kiffin, appeared confident and excited about his first Raiders team. Davis appeared relieved.

"Good, I'm glad he's happy," Davis said.

Now, as both the Kiffin and JaMarcus Russell era starts in Oakland, it's the coach's turn to make Big Al happy. And that's been a tough task in recent years for the revolving door of men who have roamed the Oakland sideline.

Ever since the Raiders advanced to the Super Bowl in January 2003, the organization has been in shambles. Yes, the 27-point loss to Tampa Bay against former Coach Jon Gruden was just the beginning of the pain.

Oakland has been the NFL's worst team the past four seasons, going an embarrassing 15-49, by far the worst record in the league.

Just pull the plug, baby.

Davis is not afraid of yanking it and starting over. The problem is, it seems he does that every year. The Raiders

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HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 10-23 | Cincinnati |
| 09/17 | L | 6-9 | at Denver |
| 10/01 | W | 41-0 | San Francisco |
| 10/08 | W | 23-20 | at Arizona |
| 10/15 | L | 7-45 | at Pittsburgh |
| 10/22 | W | 30-27 | San Diego |
| 10/29 | W | 35-28 | Seattle |
| 11/05 | W | 31-17 | at St. Louis |
| 11/12 | L | 10-13 | at Miami |
| 11/19 | W | 17-13 | Oakland |
| 11/23 | W | 19-10 | Denver |
| 12/03 | L | 28-31 | at Cleveland |
| 12/10 | L | 10-20 | Baltimore |
| 12/17 | L | 9-20 | at San Diego |
| 12/23 | W | 20-9 | at Oakland |
| 12/31 | W | 35-30 | Jacksonville |

**WON 9, LOST 7**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L. Johnson | 416 | 1789 | 4.3 | 47 | 17 |
| Bennett | 36 | 200 | 5.6 | 41 | 0 |
| Green | 19 | 59 | 3.1 | 10 | 0 |
| D. Brown | 10 | 24 | 2.4 | 7 | 0 |
| Cruz | 5 | 19 | 3.8 | 7 | 0 |
| Kennison | 4 | 16 | 4.0 | 9 | 0 |
| Hall | 3 | 11 | 3.7 | 9 | 0 |
| Huard | 9 | 9 | 1.0 | 8 | 0 |
| Ross | 3 | 8 | 2.7 | 4 | 0 |
| Parker | 3 | 7 | 2.3 | 5 | 0 |
| Page | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Colquitt | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Croyle | 3 | -3 | -1.0 | -1 | 0 |
| **Chiefs** | 513 | 2143 | 4.2 | 47 | 17 |
| **Opponents** | 461 | 1928 | 4.2 | 85t | 14 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gonzalez | 73 | 900 | 12.3 | 57 | 5 |
| Kennison | 53 | 860 | 16.2 | 51 | 5 |
| Parker | 41 | 561 | 13.7 | 43 | 1 |
| L. Johnson | 41 | 410 | 10.0 | 78 | 2 |
| Hall | 26 | 204 | 7.8 | 19 | 2 |
| Wilson | 15 | 132 | 8.8 | 19 | 3 |
| Bennett | 9 | 77 | 8.6 | 14 | 0 |
| Dunn | 4 | 40 | 10.0 | 15 | 0 |
| Webb | 3 | 23 | 7.7 | 11 | 0 |
| Cruz | 2 | 20 | 10.0 | 11 | 0 |
| Gardner | 2 | 17 | 8.5 | 13 | 0 |
| Huard | 2 | -6 | -3.0 | -2 | 0 |
| D. Brown | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| **Chiefs** | 272 | 3243 | 11.9 | 78 | 18 |
| **Opponents** | 314 | 3524 | 11.2 | 87t | 18 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Huard | 244 | 148 | 1878 | 11 | 1 |
| Green | 198 | 121 | 1342 | 7 | 9 |
| Croyle | 7 | 3 | 23 | 0 | 2 |
| L. Johnson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Chiefs** | 450 | 272 | 3243 | 18 | 12 |
| **Opponents** | 506 | 314 | 3524 | 18 | 15 |

**SACKS**

Hali 8, Allen 7.5, D. Johnson 4.5, Edwards 2.5, Knight 2, K. Mitchell 1.5, Bell 1, Fox 1, Law 1, Page 1, Reed 1, Surtain 1

**CHIEFS 32, OPPONENTS 41**

## DRAFT REPORT

The Chiefs have needed an upgrade at the wide receiver position for several years and finally addressed it by selecting **Dwayne Bowe** in the first round. Bowe is expected to start opposite the aging Eddie Kennison. **Turk McBride** is a DT/DE 'tweener who will likely replace the suspended Jared Allen on the opening day starting roster. Despite adding Alfonso Boone in free agency, DT **DeMarcus "Tank" Tyler** was too good to pass on in the third round. **Kolby Smith** is an underrated athlete who can play running back or fullback. **Justin Medlock** was a surprise second-day pick for a team that was not expected to add a kicker. **Herbert Taylor** lacks size, but can play any of the five offensive line positions. Despite having Tony Gonzalez and Kris Wilson, the team still selected **Michael Allan**, a very good Division III receiving tight end. Kansas City's draft has the look of the "best player available" type, instead of one more focused on filling team needs.

**GRADE C+**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 23 | Bowe, Dwayne | WR | 6-2 | 217 | LSU |
| 2 | 22 | McBride, Turk | DE | 6-4 | 275 | Tennessee |
| 3 | 19 | Tyler, DeMarcus "Tank" | DT | 6-2 | 305 | North Carolina State |
| 5 | 11 | Smith, Kolby | RB | 5-11 | 218 | Louisville |
| 5 | 23 | Medlock, Justin | K | 6-0 | 195 | UCLA |
| 6 | 22 | Taylor, Herbert | T | 6-4 | 285 | TCU |
| 7 | 21 | Allan, Michael | TE | 6-6 | 242 | Whitworth |

was all but over after a severe concussion ruined his 2006 campaign. His injury replacement, Damon Huard, was solid in Green's place, but Edwards says he likes the way Croyle developed in practice last season.

Edwards figures that if Croyle is the future, the future should begin now—even with an aging team.

"Brodie Croyle? I don't know what he can do," Edwards says. "I'm going to find out. I have to find out. I can't keep waiting. He's the guy we drafted. He's the guy we thought would be a pretty good player. ... We've got to find some way to get the young guy the reps. How do we do that? That's very difficult to orchestrate. Really, the future is with the young guy."

While Croyle is the future, the present of the Kansas City offense centers on Johnson. The man who set the NFL record for toting the rock in 2006 will no doubt carry the load of the offense again this season. Edwards has said he wants to cut down on Johnson's carries and it is clear Johnson, who'll turn 28 during the season, can't carry the ball in the 400-plus range much longer. He is eventually going to wear down if that ferocious pace continues.

But like the old/young dilemma in Kansas City, what else is Kansas City going to do? The Chiefs have a special workhorse in their midst. Johnson will be used rather heavily as a new quarterback is broken in. Every drive will have to start with him. If Johnson is not as effective as he has been in the past, teams will tee off on Croyle and the Chiefs' offense will have no chance.

But Johnson needs help. Perhaps more telling than his 416 attempts last season is another NFL record set by Johnson: He has scored Kansas City's last 34 rushing touchdowns. Backup scatback Michael Bennett could provide the answer after gaining 200 yards on 36 carries last season, with a nice 5.6-yard average. While Johnson is a rugged pounder, Bennett is small (5-9) and has breakaway speed. This combination needs to be used more to keep Johnson fresher and the pressure off Croyle.

While the Kansas City ground attack is solid, the receiving options are more

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Chiefs)*

"I really don't like this team. It is not very balanced and it is getting very old. Look at the offense, which always carried Kansas City in the past. The quarterback situation is up in the air, the receivers aren't very good and the line is not nearly as stout as it used to be with Will Shields retired. ... Herm Edwards talks about lessening the load on Larry Johnson, but where else is he going to get his offense? It sounds great to give Johnson fewer carries, but the Chiefs may not be able to afford it. ... The defense is old and not deep. The secondary could be a mess."

limited. Gonzalez is still an upper-echelon tight end and once again will be a top option in the passing game. But a big reason for that is because the Chiefs' receiving core is below average. That's why they picked LSU wideout Dwayne Bowe in the first round of April's draft.

Starters Samie Parker and Eddie Kennison aren't scaring anyone. Kennison had 53 catches and Parker 41 last year. Granted, Johnson and Gonzalez eat up a lot of plays, but if Kansas City adds more capable receivers, the distribution will undoubtedly be more evenly disbursed.

Suddenly, like the Chiefs' thin depth at receiver, the offensive line is also a tad shaky. With Shields joining Willie Roaf in retirement, the lone star on the line is left guard Brian Waters. Center Casey Wiegmann also returns, but there are new starters at the other spots. John Welbourn will replace Shields and Chris Terry is expected to play at right tackle. The team signed former Miami left tackle Damion McIntosh, whom Edwards believes will help ease the transition.

"That was a good get for us, to get a guy like that," Edwards says of the McIntosh signing. "And he gives everyone the business, which I like. He kind of falls on a guy and gives them an elbow as he gets up. That's OK. I like those kinds of guys. He's a tough guy."

Defensively, Kansas City remains mostly the same. The biggest issue on the unit is end Jared Allen, who has been suspended for the first four games of the season for violating the league's substance-abuse policy. Allen has requested a trade, but the Chiefs are reluctant to deal him because he is so valuable. Along with second-year player Tamba Hali, Allen is part of an impressive end duo. Hali had eight sacks in his maiden season and Allen added 7.5. Alfonso Boone, signed from Chicago, will get a chance to start at tackle.

Derrick Johnson leads the linebackers. It will be interesting to see former San Diego stalwart Donnie Edwards wearing the Kansas City red again after he signed in the offseason as a free agent. Edwards is 34 and nearing the end of his NFL tenure, which he began in Kansas City, but his experience and leadership will be welcomed by the Chiefs.

The secondary is older, with Law and Patrick Surtain as the cornerbacks. Second-year player Jarrad Page and veteran Greg Wesley are the likely starters at safety.

**FINAL GRADE**

**76**

STOCK REPORT: DOWN

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Damion McIntosh**, OT (MIA)

The former Dolphins tackle was brought in to help the transition for what used to be one of the better lines in the NFL. McIntosh is a young, big, strong player who can anchor a new-look line for the next several years.

- Jean-Philippe Darche, C (SEA)
- Donnie Edwards, LB (SD)
- Napoleon Harris, LB (MIN)
- Alfonso Boone, DT (CHI)
- Jon McGraw, DB (DET)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Jordan Black, OT (HOU)
- Stephen Williams, DT (CAR)
- Kawika Mitchell, LB (NYG)
- Dante Hall, WR (trade, STL)
- Will Shields, OG (retired)
- Ryan Sims, DT (trade, TB)

> "I've been playing [left tackle] since I've gotten into the league. I have seven years of experience, over 80 starts and I've been in the AFC West before, so I'm accustomed to the teams that are here. I've played at Arrowhead Stadium before—on the other side of the fence—and I prefer to be on this side. ..."
>
> *—free-agent acquisition Damion McIntosh on joining the Chiefs' offensive line*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 321.4 | 16 |
| Rushing | 133.9 | 9 |
| Passing | 187.5 | 22 |
| Scoring | 331 | 15 |
| Punt Returns | 8.0 | 23 |
| Kick Returns | 21.9 | 24 |
| Red Zone TD % | 60.4 | 3 |
| Total Defense | 328.9 | 16 |
| Against Rush | 120.5 | 18 |
| Against Pass | 208.4 | 18 |
| Points Allowed | 315 | 11t |
| Interceptions | 15 | 20t |
| Sacks | 32 | 23t |
| Turnover Diff. | +4 | 10t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 310 | 105 | 184 | 21 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 48 | 245 | 29 | 14 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | 18 | 1 | 1 |

## CHIEFS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | Croyle, Brodie | QB | 6-2 | 206 | 02/06/1983 | 1 | Alabama |
| 10 | Green, Trent | QB | 6-3 | 217 | 07/09/1970 | 9 | Indiana |
| 11 | Huard, Damon | QB | 6-3 | 218 | 07/09/1973 | 6 | Washington |
| 4 | Jacobs, Omar | QB | 6-4 | 233 | 03/03/1984 | 0 | Bowling Green |
| 7 | Printers, Casey | QB | 6-2 | 222 | 05/16/1981 | 0 | Florida A&M |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 67 | Bober, Chris | C | 6-5 | 310 | 12/24/1976 | 6 | Nebraska-Omaha |
| 51 | Darche, Jean-Philippe | C | 6-0 | 246 | 02/28/1975 | 7 | McGill |
| 77 | McIntosh, Damion | T | 6-4 | 320 | 03/25/1977 | 7 | Kansas State |
| 64 | Niswanger, Rudy | C | 6-5 | 301 | 11/09/1982 | 1 | LSU |
| 79 | Sampson, Kevin | T | 6-4 | 312 | 06/19/1981 | 3 | Syracuse |
| 61 | Stallings, Tre | G | 6-3 | 315 | 01/08/1983 | 0 | Mississippi |
| 71 | Svitek, Will | T | 6-6 | 300 | 01/08/1982 | 2 | Stanford |
| 60 | Terry, Chris | T | 6-5 | 295 | 08/08/1975 | 7 | Georgia |
| 54 | Waters, Brian | G | 6-3 | 320 | 02/18/1977 | 7 | North Texas |
| 76 | Welbourn, John | T | 6-5 | 310 | 03/30/1976 | 8 | California |
| 62 | Wiegmann, Casey | C | 6-2 | 285 | 07/20/1973 | 10 | Iowa |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26 | Bennett, Michael | RB | 5-9 | 207 | 08/13/1978 | 6 | Wisconsin |
| 43 | Hanoian, Greg | RB | 6-2 | 263 | 12/09/1981 | 0 | Syracuse |
| 27 | Johnson, Larry | RB | 6-1 | 230 | 11/19/1979 | 4 | Penn State |
| 39 | Ross, Derrick | RB | 5-10 | 226 | 12/29/1983 | 1 | Tarleton State |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 89 | Dunn, Jason | TE | 6-6 | 274 | 11/15/1973 | 10 | Eastern Kentucky |
| 85 | Gardner, Rod | WR | 6-2 | 213 | 10/26/1977 | 6 | Clemson |
| 88 | Gonzalez, Tony | TE | 6-5 | 251 | 02/27/1976 | 10 | California |
| 81 | Hannon, Chris | WR | 6-3 | 205 | 02/18/1984 | 0 | Tennessee |
| 87 | Kennison, Eddie | WR | 6-1 | 201 | 01/20/1973 | 11 | LSU |
| 18 | Parker, Samie | WR | 5-11 | 190 | 03/25/1981 | 3 | Oregon |
| 80 | Webb, Jeff | WR | 6-2 | 211 | 01/31/1982 | 1 | San Diego State |
| 48 | Willis, Keith | TE | 6-6 | 260 | 12/14/1980 | 0 | Virginia Tech |
| 84 | Wilson, Kris | TE | 6-2 | 251 | 08/22/1981 | 3 | Pittsburgh |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 69 | Allen, Jared | DE | 6-6 | 270 | 04/03/1982 | 3 | Idaho State |
| 70 | Boone, Alfonso | DT | 6-4 | 318 | 01/11/1976 | 6 | Mt. San Antonio JC |
| 95 | Edwards, Ron | DT | 6-3 | 315 | 07/12/1979 | 6 | Texas A&M |
| 91 | Hali, Tamba | DE | 6-3 | 275 | 11/03/1983 | 1 | Penn State |
| 72 | Murphy, Montez | DE | 6-6 | 263 | 01/06/1982 | 1 | Baylor |
| 92 | Reed, James | DT | 6-0 | 286 | 02/03/1977 | 6 | Iowa State |
| 96 | Wilkerson, Jimmy | DE | 6-2 | 290 | 01/04/1981 | 4 | Oklahoma |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38 | Bragg, Michael | CB | 6-1 | 190 | 12/31/1981 | 1 | Tx. A&M-Kingsville |
| 48 | Butler, Robb | S | 6-0 | 217 | 09/14/1981 | 1 | Robert Morris |
| 24 | Law, Ty | CB | 5-11 | 200 | 02/10/1974 | 12 | Michigan |
| 45 | Maxey, Marcus | CB | 6-0 | 192 | 02/02/1983 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 47 | McGraw, Jon | S | 6-3 | 206 | 04/02/1979 | 5 | Kansas State |
| 41 | Norton, Zach | CB | 5-11 | 183 | 11/19/1981 | 1 | Cincinnati |
| 44 | Page, Jarrad | S | 6-0 | 225 | 10/19/1984 | 1 | UCLA |
| 40 | Phinisee, Justin | CB | 5-10 | 197 | 04/10/1983 | 0 | Oregon |
| 49 | Pollard, Bernard | S | 6-1 | 224 | 12/23/1984 | 1 | Purdue |
| 20 | Sapp, Benny | CB | 5-9 | 190 | 01/20/1981 | 3 | Northern Iowa |
| 23 | Surtain, Patrick | CB | 5-11 | 195 | 06/19/1976 | 9 | Southern Miss |
| 25 | Wesley, Greg | S | 6-2 | 206 | 03/19/1978 | 7 | Ark.-Pine Bluff |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 99 | Bell, Kendrell | LB | 6-1 | 245 | 07/02/1978 | 6 | Georgia |
| 59 | Edwards, Donnie | LB | 6-2 | 227 | 04/06/1973 | 11 | UCLA |
| 97 | Fox, Keyaron | LB | 6-3 | 235 | 01/24/1982 | 3 | Georgia Tech |
| 53 | Griffin, Kris | LB | 6-3 | 240 | 05/27/1981 | 2 | Indiana (PA) |
| 46 | Grigsby, Boomer | LB | 5-11 | 249 | 11/15/1981 | 2 | Illinois State |
| 50 | Harris, Napoleon | LB | 6-2 | 255 | 02/25/1979 | 5 | Northwestern |
| 56 | Johnson, Derrick | LB | 6-3 | 242 | 11/22/1982 | 2 | Texas |
| 52 | Kershaw, William | LB | 6-3 | 240 | 12/15/1983 | 1 | Maryland |
| 55 | Scanlon, Rich | LB | 6-2 | 249 | 12/23/1980 | 3 | Syracuse |
| 43 | Wusu, Timi | LB | 6-3 | 210 | 06/10/1983 | 0 | Stanford |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Colquitt, Dustin | P | 6-3 | 210 | 05/06/1982 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 1 | Tynes, Lawrence | K | 6-1 | 202 | 05/03/1978 | 3 | Troy |

**HERM EDWARDS,** HEAD COACH

**Gunther Cunningham**, def. coord.; **Mike Solari**, off. coord.; **Bob Bicknell**, asst. off. line; **Don Blackmon**, linebackers; **Dick Curl**, asst. head coach/quarterbacks; **Jon Embree**, tight ends; **David Gibbs**, def. backs; **Charlie Joiner**, wide receivers; **Tim Krumrie**, def. line; **John Matsko**, off. line; **Mike Priefer**, special teams; **James Saxon**, running backs

# OAKLAND 4

**AFC WEST**

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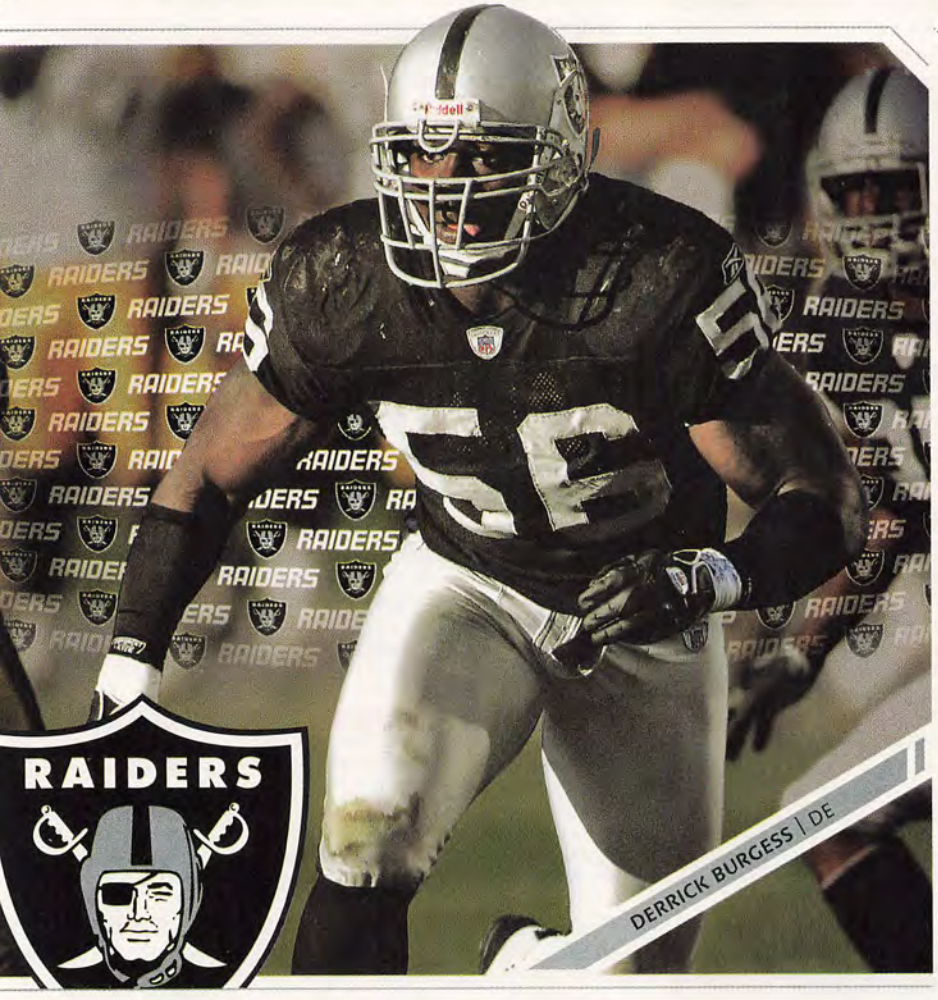



## The black hole

With the youngest coach in the NFL, Lane Kiffin, at the controls, owner Al Davis hopes the third time's a charm in hiring baby-faced coaches.

Al Davis—the man still has a commanding presence—can turn an otherwise bustling area into his own captive showroom. Every time he made a brief appearance during March's NFL owners meetings in Phoenix, chats stopped and crowds gathered.

It's Al. It's instant entertainment.

During a conversation, dominated as usual by Al, someone mentioned to Davis that his precocious new coach, Lane Kiffin, appeared confident and excited about his first Raiders team. Davis appeared relieved.

"Good, I'm glad he's happy," Davis said.

Now, as both the Kiffin and JaMarcus Russell era starts in Oakland, it's the coach's turn to make Big Al happy. And that's been a tough task in recent years for the revolving door of men who have roamed the Oakland sideline.

Ever since the Raiders advanced to the Super Bowl in January 2003, the organization has been in shambles. Yes, the 27-point loss to Tampa Bay against former Coach Jon Gruden was just the beginning of the pain.

Oakland has been the NFL's worst team the past four seasons, going an embarrassing 15-49, by far the worst record in the league.

Just pull the plug, baby.

Davis is not afraid of yanking it and starting over. The problem is, it seems he does that every year. The Raiders

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

### PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | JaMarcus Russell |
| FB | Justin Griffith |
| RB | Dominic Rhodes |
| LT | Barry Sims |
| LG | Kevin Boothe |
| C | Jake Grove |
| RG | Cooper Carlisle |
| RT | Chad Slaughter |
| TE | Zach Miller |
| WR | Ronald Curry |
| WR | Jerry Porter |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Tyler Brayton |
| LT | Warren Sapp |
| RT | Tommy Kelly |
| RE | Derrick Burgess |
| LLB | Sam Williams |
| MLB | Kirk Morrison |
| RLB | Thomas Howard |
| LCB | Nnamdi Asomugha |
| RCB | Fabian Washington |
| SS | Michael Huff |
| FS | Stuart Schweigert |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Shane Lechler |
| K | Sebastian Janikowski |
| PR | Chris Carr |
| KR | Chris Carr |

### POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 2 |
| Quarterbacks | 2 |
| Running Backs | 3 |
| Receivers | 3 |
| Defensive Line | 3 |
| Linebackers | 3 |
| Secondary | 2 |
| Special Teams | 3 |
| Management | 1 |

JOHN PYLE

## THE BOOK ON ... *Dominic Rhodes* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Rhodes' decision to sign with Oakland was a smart one on his part. First, he will get a chance to play more than he did in Indianapolis, but he won't have all of the responsibility of being the bellcow back. The Raiders still have LaMont Jordan and Rhodes will need Jordan. [Rhodes] is best suited as a part-time back. If Rhodes [gets] 25-30 carries a game, he'd wear down, get hurt and overall be ineffective. He is a change-of-pace-type player who could speed and he can run downhill well. But he can't be overused. If so, he's below average."

## DRAFT REPORT

After months of trade speculation, the Raiders eventually made **JaMarcus Russell** the No. 1 overall pick of the 2007 NFL Draft. Tight end **Zach Miller** slipped some following a disappointing effort at the NFL Combine, but is similar in many ways to Todd Heap (Ravens) and should turn out to be a very good pro. **Quentin Moses** was considered a top-10 prospect entering the 2006 season, but fell off dramatically after a disappointing senior year. If Moses returns to his playing form as a junior, he could be an outstanding value from Round Three. Oakland gave up a third-round pick in 2008 to New England in order to add **Mario Henderson**, a left tackle who will be groomed as Barry Sims' eventual replacement. **Johnnie Lee Higgins** was a highly productive speed receiver in college. The Raiders acquired QB Josh McCown and WR Mike Williams from Detroit for the 105th overall selection. McCown will be the veteran quarterback until Russell is ready to start, while Williams will have a chance to reclaim his career under Coach Lane Kiffin, who he played for at USC. Running back **Michael Bush** had the look of a first-round talent prior to breaking his leg in the season opener in 2006, missing his entire senior year. The question will be where Bush fits into the rotation with LaMont Jordan, Dominic Rhodes and Justin Fargas. In a trade, Randy Moss was sent to New England for a fourth-round draft choice, which was used to obtain CB **John Bowie**. Defensive end **Jay Richardson** played well as a senior, but may lack the skills to make an NFL roster. **Eric Frampton** made a lot of plays in the Pac-10 the last two seasons and will provide quality depth at both safety positions. Fullback **Oren O'Neal** and WR **Johnathan Holland** could make the practice squad. Oakland's draft has the look of boom or bust, which will define the franchise for the next 10 years.

**GRADE B+**

are on their seventh head coach (including two go-rounds for the recently fired Art Shell) since the move back to Oakland from Los Angeles in 1995. Here's a contrast in stability: Denver Coach Mike Shanahan, another former Davis minion, is beginning his 13th year in the AFC West. Since 1995, Denver's had one coach, while the Raiders are starting on their seventh. Consistency is a lost art in Oakland.

Last year, Davis turned to an old friend, Shell, to replace Norv Turner. Shell was brought in for that precious stability and discipline. However, 14 losses later, he was shown the gate for the second time as the Raiders' head man.

Instead of preparing for the playoffs in January, the annual ritual in the East Bay is looking for a coach. And, as usual in Oakland, the 2007 version was as choppy as ever. Formerly the offensive coordinator at USC, Kiffin was not the Raiders' first choice as coach. In fact, Kiffin thought he might be coming to Oakland, but only to lead the offense, which seemed fine to him. After all, he was overlooked by the University of Minnesota before being offered the Raiders' gig.

Yes, the coach who didn't qualify for a middle-of-the-pack Big Ten program is good enough for an NFL job. The Team of Decades has become the Team of the Decayed.

But here Kiffin is, at 31, the youngest NFL head coach in the modern era. He makes Jets Coach Eric Mangini (who formerly held the title at age 36) look like a guy who eats the early-bird special at Denny's.

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Russell, JaMarcus | QB | 6-6 | 263 | LSU |
| 2 | 6 | Miller, Zach | TE | 6-5 | 259 | Arizona State |
| 3 | 1 | Moses, Quentin | DE | 6-5 | 257 | Georgia |
| 3 | 28 | Henderson, Mario | T | 6-7 | 308 | Florida State |
| 3 | 36 | Higgins, Johnnie Lee | WR | 6-0 | 180 | UTEP |
| 4 | 1 | Bush, Michael | RB | 6-2 | 247 | Louisville |
| 4 | 11 | Bowie, John | CB | 5-11 | 190 | Cincinnati |
| 5 | 1 | Richardson, Jay | DE | 6-6 | 276 | Ohio State |
| 5 | 28 | Frampton, Eric | S | 6-0 | 205 | Washington State |
| 6 | 1 | O'Neal, Oren | RB | 6-0 | 248 | Arkansas State |
| 7 | 44 | Holland, Johnathan | WR | 6-0 | 189 | Louisiana Tech |

## THE COUNT

| 12 | 7 | 11 |
|---|---|---|
| Touchdowns from scrimmage for Oakland in 2006, the fewest ever in a 16-game season. | Receiving touchdowns for the Raiders last year, led by the departed Randy Moss with three. | Consecutive road losses for Oakland, the longest active road losing streak in the NFL, which dates back to the Raiders' win against Washington on Nov. 20, 2005. |

PHIL CARTER / US PRESSWIRE

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. *Detroit*
SEPT. 9 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 2** @ *Denver*
SEPT. 16 | 4:15
**MUST-SEE GAME**
*Lane Kiffin coaches in his first division game against former Oakland Coach Mike Shanahan. It won't take Kiffin long to see how old employees of Al Davis think of the owner and the franchise.*
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 3** vs. *Cleveland*
SEPT. 23 | 4:05
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 4** @ *Miami*
SEPT. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 5** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 6** @ *San Diego*
OCT. 14 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 7** vs. *Kansas City*
OCT. 21 | 4:05
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 8** @ *Tennessee*
OCT. 28 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 9** vs. *Houston*
NOV. 4 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 10** vs. *Chicago*
NOV. 11 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 11** @ *Minnesota*
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 12** @ *Kansas City*
NOV. 25 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 13** vs. *Denver*
DEC. 2 | 4:05
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 14** @ *Green Bay*
DEC. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 15** vs. *Indianapolis*
DEC. 16 | 4:05
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 16** @ *Jacksonville*
DEC. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 17** vs. *San Diego*
DEC. 30 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 0-27 | San Diego |
| 09/17 | L | 6-28 | at Baltimore |
| 10/01 | L | 21-24 | Cleveland |
| 10/08 | L | 20-34 | at San Francisco |
| 10/15 | L | 3-13 | at Denver |
| 10/22 | W | 22-9 | Arizona |
| 10/29 | W | 20-13 | Pittsburgh |
| 11/06 | L | 0-16 | at Seattle |
| 11/12 | L | 13-17 | Denver |
| 11/19 | L | 13-17 | at Kansas City |
| 11/26 | L | 14-21 | at San Diego |
| 12/03 | L | 14-23 | Houston |
| 12/10 | L | 10-27 | at Cincinnati |
| 12/17 | L | 0-20 | St. Louis |
| 12/23 | L | 9-20 | Kansas City |
| 12/31 | L | 3-23 | at New York Jets |

**WON 2, LOST 14**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fargas | 178 | 659 | 3.7 | 48 | 1 |
| Jordan | 114 | 434 | 3.8 | 59t | 2 |
| Crockett | 39 | 163 | 4.2 | 17 | 0 |
| Brooks | 22 | 124 | 5.6 | 23 | 0 |
| Lee | 21 | 72 | 3.4 | 13 | 2 |
| Walter | 14 | 30 | 2.1 | 12 | 0 |
| Tuiasosopo | 4 | 29 | 7.3 | 11 | 0 |
| Curry | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Whitted | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| **Raiders** | 394 | 1519 | 3.9 | 59t | 5 |
| **Opponents** | 542 | 2144 | 4.0 | 58 | 15 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Curry | 62 | 727 | 11.7 | 39 | 1 |
| Moss | 42 | 553 | 13.2 | 51 | 3 |
| R. Williams | 28 | 293 | 10.5 | 28 | 0 |
| Whitted | 27 | 299 | 11.1 | 33 | 0 |
| Anderson | 25 | 285 | 11.4 | 35 | 2 |
| Lee | 20 | 138 | 6.9 | 15 | 0 |
| Fargas | 13 | 91 | 7.0 | 21 | 0 |
| Madsen | 11 | 146 | 13.3 | 57 | 1 |
| Jordan | 10 | 74 | 7.4 | 21 | 0 |
| Crockett | 10 | 53 | 5.3 | 14 | 0 |
| Morant | 7 | 70 | 10.0 | 18 | 0 |
| Gabriel | 5 | 84 | 16.8 | 28 | 0 |
| Porter | 1 | 19 | 19.0 | 19 | 0 |
| Adkisson | 1 | 9 | 9.0 | 9 | 0 |
| Buchanon | 1 | 9 | 9.0 | 9 | 0 |
| **Raiders** | 263 | 2850 | 10.8 | 57 | 7 |
| **Opponents** | 245 | 2631 | 10.7 | 58 | 17 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Walter | 276 | 147 | 1677 | 3 | 13 |
| Brooks | 192 | 110 | 1105 | 3 | 8 |
| Tuiasosopo | 13 | 6 | 68 | 1 | 2 |
| Curry | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Raiders** | 483 | 263 | 2850 | 7 | 24 |
| **Opponents** | 410 | 245 | 2631 | 17 | 18 |

**SACKS**

Burgess 11, Sapp 10, Kelly 3.5, Huntley 2.5, Johnstone 2, Asomugha 1, Morrison 1, Poole 1, Sands 1, S. Williams 1

**RAIDERS 34, OPPONENTS 72**

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Raiders)*

"Don't expect much from this team this year. The Raiders were one of the worst teams in recent memory last year and don't expect a major turnaround. ... [Coach] Lane Kiffin is not the answer, at least not for a while. The word at USC is that he wasn't respected by his players and, at the University of Minnesota, officials didn't think he was ready to lead a team. But leave it to the Raiders. [Owner] Al Davis always thinks he's going to strike lightning, a la [John] Madden and [Jon] Gruden. But Kiffin is not ready for the NFL. ...

"The offense could be marginally better with the addition of Dominic Rhodes, but still this will not be a scoring machine. ... I thought the Oakland defense was overrated. Because the offense was so bad, some people were pumping up that defense a little too much. It was very beatable."

Davis formerly hit paydirt with youngsters in John Madden and Gruden. He hopes lightning strikes a third time in the person of Kiffin, who does have a football pedigree as the son of Tampa Bay defensive mastermind Monte Kiffin.

Give Lane Kiffin credit, however. He acts like he belongs. Kiffin says he was honest about the Raiders' lot in life with Davis during his first interview.

"People ask me, 'How did you get the job?'" Kiffin says. "I don't know that. But I know that I was going to go in, and I was going to fire away, and I was going to be who I am, and I was going to say what I believe. You can research, and you can go on interviews and say what you know they want to hear. But I wasn't going to do that. If I did that, maybe I was going to set myself up for not taking it [the job] the way I wanted it, just what we talked about at the beginning.

"You need certain things done. I wasn't going to say what [Davis] wanted to hear. If he wanted to hire me for that, I didn't want the job. I think that had a lot to do with getting the job. ... Getting to be a head coach, whether that was college or the NFL, was something that I dreamed about for so long."

Dream or not, Kiffin knows that he is inheriting a job with plenty of issues.

The Raiders' offense was dreadful last season. Receivers Randy Moss and Jerry Porter were non-factors. Porter hardly played (only four games, with just one reception) after getting in Shell's doghouse and Moss was hurt and ineffective much of the season. Once the premier deep threat in the league, Moss had just 42 catches and three touchdowns last season. He's now with New England after a second-day trade at this year's draft, which means Porter will have a chance to be the go-to receiver.

The big change is at quarterback, where Russell—the No. 1 overall pick from LSU—seems to be the long-term answer. But Josh McCown, acquired from Detroit during the draft along with underperforming wideout Mike Williams, will get a shot to challenge for the starting job, ending the Andrew Walter/Aaron Brooks Era.

However, expect the big-armed Russell to play this season if McCown falters. Russell is definitely the future hope in Oakland.

### DID YOU KNOW

Despite scoring a career-low 70 points last year, Raiders kicker Sebastian Janikowski scored a higher percentage of his team's points (41.7) than any other player in the NFL.

Oakland had more turnovers (13) than points (12) in its final three games of the 2006 season.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**KIRK MORRISON**
linebacker

Morrison may be on the verge of becoming a perennial Pro Bowl player. The third-year pro is a true playmaker and the top reason why this defense has a chance to be one of the better units in the league. Morrison, a San Diego State product, combined for 243 tackles in his first two seasons and should only get better.

### RAIDERS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Fred Biletnikoff (1965-78)**
*The Super Bowl XI MVP caught 589 passes for 8,974 yards and 76 scores during a career that included 19 postseason games.*

**2 Tim Brown (1988-2003)**
*Brown should soon take his 14,934 receiving yards (second all-time), 1,094 receptions (third) and 100 TDs (tied for sixth) into the Hall of Fame.*

**3 Cliff Branch (1972-85)**
*Branch accumulated 3,096 yards and 34 touchdowns during three consecutive All-Pro seasons from 1974-1976.*

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

The Raiders' biggest free-agent pickup should help the offense. Running back Dominic Rhodes was brought in from Indianapolis and will work in a rotation with LaMont Jordan. The Raiders are converting to a zone-blocking offensive scheme, which Rhodes fits into well.

"Dominic Rhodes, to bring him in brought us two things," Kiffin says. "First of all, he is a great competitor. Here's a guy that comes to work every day, [we] researched him through Indianapolis and the way he was there. ... We needed to get competition at that spot immediately. Dominic brings that."

Rhodes and Jordan will be running behind a new-look offensive line that needs help. This unit was a disaster last year, allowing an NFL-high 72 sacks. Former No. 2 overall pick Robert Gallery is trying to save his career and might play right tackle, switching with Barry Sims. Cooper Carlisle signed with the Raiders from Denver and will help in the transition to the zone-blocking scheme. Center Jake Grove is one of the few solid linemen, as he started every game last year.

One bright spot for the Raiders last season was their defense. It was a fast, aggressive unit that improved as the season went along. Should Kiffin get the offense to improve, the defense should be strong enough in 2007 for the Raiders to win several games.

Defensive tackle Warren Sapp had an excellent season (10 sacks) and, even though he'll be 35 in December, he's still the anchor of this unit. Derrick Burgess, who has 27 sacks in the past two seasons, is a top pass-rushing end.

The Oakland linebackers are decent. Third-year middle linebacker Kirk Morrison is a good leader and tackling machine, with 243 the past two seasons. Second-year linebacker Thomas Howard is also very instinctive and a strong playmaker.

Oakland contains some ferocious youth in the secondary. Cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha had a breakout season in 2006 with eight interceptions. His cornerback mate, Fabian Washington, is fast and improving. Safety Michael Huff, the No. 7 overall pick in 2006, showed strong signs of being a potential difference-maker, while secondary partner Stuart Schweigert is a player who gives it his all every down.

The defense has a chance to be strong. But this season, the focus will be about Kiffin changing the offense and an overall losing attitude. And as we've learned, if he fails, Davis will not be afraid to make changes himself.

**FINAL GRADE**

**60**

STOCK REPORT: STEADY

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Justin Griffith**, RB (ATL)

*The Raiders are making a commitment to their running game. Dominic Rhodes got most of the headlines this offseason, but Griffith, brought in from Atlanta, is a solid all-around fullback and fine blocker.*

- Tony Stewart, TE (CIN)
- Dominic Rhodes, RB (IND)
- Jeremy Newberry, C (SF)
- Dominic Rhodes, RB (IND)
- Fred Wakefield, TE (ARI)
- Cornell Green, OT (TB)
- Cooper Carlisle, OG (DEN)
- Josh McCown, QB (trade, DET)
- Mike Williams, WR (trade, DET)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Marques Tuiasosopo, QB (NYJ)
- Randy Moss, WR (trade, NE)

> "I just want to let them [Raiders fans] know that I'm excited. I think that I can bring exactly what they're looking for. I'm going to be out there just as hyped as they are. I'm pretty sure I won't be able to breathe after that first time I get out there on that field, because I'm going to be excited and amped up. ..."
>
> *—free-agent acquisition Dominic Rhodes on joining the Raiders*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 246.2 | 32 |
| Rushing | 94.9 | 29 |
| Passing | 151.3 | 31 |
| Scoring | 168 | 32 |
| Punt Returns | 6.2 | 31 |
| Kick Returns | 24.8 | 2 |
| Red Zone TD % | 28.6 | 32 |
| Total Defense | 284.8 | 3 |
| Against Rush | 134.0 | 25 |
| Against Pass | 150.8 | 1 |
| Points Allowed | 332 | 18 |
| Interceptions | 18 | 10t |
| Sacks | 34 | 19t |
| Turnover Diff. | -23 | 32 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 243 | 73 | 144 | 26 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | 112 | 10 | 14 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 7 | 0 | 4 |

## RAIDERS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Booty, Josh | QB | 6-2 | 221 | 04/29/1975 | 0 | LSU |
| 12 | McCown, Josh | QB | 6-4 | 215 | 07/04/1979 | 6 | Sam Houston St. |
| 16 | Walter, Andrew | QB | 6-6 | 230 | 05/11/1982 | 1 | Arizona State |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 67 | Boothe, Kevin | G | 6-5 | 315 | 07/05/1983 | 1 | Cornell |
| 66 | Carlisle, Cooper | G | 6-5 | 295 | 08/11/1977 | 7 | Florida |
| 76 | Gallery, Robert | T | 6-7 | 325 | 07/26/1980 | 3 | Iowa |
| 74 | Green, Cornell | G | 6-6 | 315 | 08/25/1976 | 4 | UCF |
| 64 | Grove, Jake | C | 6-4 | 300 | 01/22/1980 | 3 | Virginia Tech |
| 79 | McQuistan, Paul | T | 6-6 | 315 | 04/30/1983 | 1 | Weber State |
| 61 | Morris, Chris | C | 6-3 | 299 | 02/22/1983 | 1 | Michigan State |
| 60 | Newberry, Jeremy | C | 6-5 | 304 | 03/23/1976 | 7 | California |
| 65 | Sims, Barry | T | 6-5 | 300 | 12/01/1974 | 8 | Utah |
| 78 | Slaughter, Chad | T | 6-8 | 340 | 06/04/1978 | 4 | Alcorn State |
| 62 | Treu, Adam | C | 6-5 | 300 | 06/24/1974 | 10 | Nebraska |
| 63 | Wilson, Mark | T | 6-6 | 318 | 11/11/1980 | 1 | California |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 32 | Crockett, Zack | RB | 6-2 | 240 | 12/02/1972 | 12 | Florida State |
| 20 | Echemandu, Adimchinobe | RB | 5-10 | 226 | 11/21/1980 | 3 | California |
| 25 | Fargas, Justin | RB | 6-1 | 220 | 01/25/1980 | 4 | USC |
| 28 | Green, DeJuan | RB | 5-11 | 205 | 05/13/1980 | 0 | South Florida |
| 36 | Griffith, Justin | RB | 5-11 | 232 | 07/21/1980 | 4 | Mississippi State |
| 44 | Jackson, Tony | RB | 6-2 | 256 | 07/05/1982 | 0 | Iowa |
| 34 | Jordan, LaMont | RB | 5-10 | 230 | 11/11/1978 | 6 | Maryland |
| 42 | Lee, ReShard | RB | 5-10 | 220 | 10/12/1980 | 3 | Middle Tennessee St. |
| 33 | Rhodes, Dominic | RB | 5-9 | 203 | 01/17/1979 | 5 | Midwestern State |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 88 | Adkisson, James | TE | 6-5 | 230 | 01/11/1980 | 1 | South Carolina |
| 83 | Anderson, Courtney | TE | 6-6 | 270 | 11/19/1980 | 3 | San Jose State |
| 13 | Buchanon, William | WR | 6-3 | 185 | 04/05/1983 | 1 | USC |
| 89 | Curry, Ronald | WR | 6-2 | 210 | 05/28/1979 | 5 | North Carolina |
| 82 | Francis, Carlos | WR | 5-10 | 190 | 01/03/1981 | 1 | Texas Tech |
| 80 | Gabriel, Doug | WR | 6-2 | 215 | 08/27/1980 | 4 | UCF |
| 85 | Madsen, John | WR | 6-5 | 220 | 05/09/1983 | 1 | Utah |
| 19 | Morant, Johnnie | WR | 6-4 | 220 | 12/07/1981 | 3 | Syracuse |
| 81 | Porter, Jerry | WR | 6-2 | 220 | 07/14/1978 | 7 | West Virginia |
| 84 | Stewart, Tony | TE | 6-5 | 260 | 08/09/1979 | 6 | Penn State |
| 47 | Wakefield, Fred | TE | 6-7 | 319 | 09/17/1978 | 5 | Illinois |
| 87 | Whitted, Alvis | WR | 6-0 | 185 | 09/04/1974 | 9 | N.C. State |
| 17 | Williams, Mike | WR | 6-5 | 230 | 01/04/1984 | 3 | USC |
| 86 | Williams, Randal | TE | 6-3 | 235 | 05/21/1978 | 6 | New Hampshire |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 91 | Brayton, Tyler | DE | 6-6 | 280 | 11/20/1979 | 4 | Colorado |
| 56 | Burgess, Derrick | DE | 6-2 | 260 | 08/12/1978 | 5 | Mississippi |
| 77 | Hawthorne, Anttaj | DT | 6-3 | 310 | 11/15/1981 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 94 | Huntley, Kevin | DE | 6-7 | 270 | 04/08/1982 | 1 | Kansas State |
| 49 | Keith, Charlton | DE | 6-5 | 225 | 05/04/1983 | 0 | Kansas |
| 93 | Kelly, Tommy | DT | 6-6 | 300 | 12/27/1980 | 3 | Mississippi State |
| 92 | McNeal, Bryant | DE | 6-4 | 248 | 07/13/1979 | 0 | Clemson |
| 73 | Quarshie, Michael | DT | 6-3 | 285 | 11/13/1979 | 0 | Columbia |
| 90 | Sands, Terdell | DT | 6-7 | 335 | 10/31/1979 | 4 | Chattanooga |
| 99 | Sapp, Warren | DT | 6-2 | 300 | 12/19/1972 | 12 | Miami (FL) |
| 95 | Shaw, Josh | DT | 6-2 | 290 | 09/07/1979 | 2 | Michigan State |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | Asomugha, Nnamdi | CB | 6-2 | 210 | 07/06/1981 | 4 | California |
| 29 | Bing, Darnell | S | 6-2 | 228 | 09/10/1984 | 0 | USC |
| 23 | Carr, Chris | CB | 5-10 | 180 | 04/30/1983 | 2 | Boise State |
| 40 | Cooper, Jarrod | S | 6-1 | 215 | 03/31/1978 | 6 | Kansas State |
| 31 | Eugene, Hiram | CB | 6-2 | 200 | 11/24/1980 | 0 | Louisiana Tech |
| 24 | Huff, Michael | S | 6-1 | 205 | 03/06/1983 | 1 | Texas |
| 37 | Johnson, Chris | CB | 6-0 | 198 | 09/25/1979 | 1 | Louisville |
| 38 | Richard, Kris | CB | 5-11 | 190 | 10/28/1978 | 4 | USC |
| 26 | Routt, Stanford | CB | 6-1 | 195 | 07/23/1983 | 2 | Houston |
| 30 | Schweigert, Stuart | S | 6-1 | 210 | 06/21/1981 | 3 | Purdue |
| 22 | Starks, Duane | CB | 5-10 | 174 | 05/23/1974 | 8 | Miami (FL) |
| 43 | Ward, B.J. | S | 6-3 | 208 | 11/04/1981 | 1 | Florida State |
| 27 | Washington, Fabian | CB | 5-11 | 185 | 06/09/1983 | 2 | Nebraska |

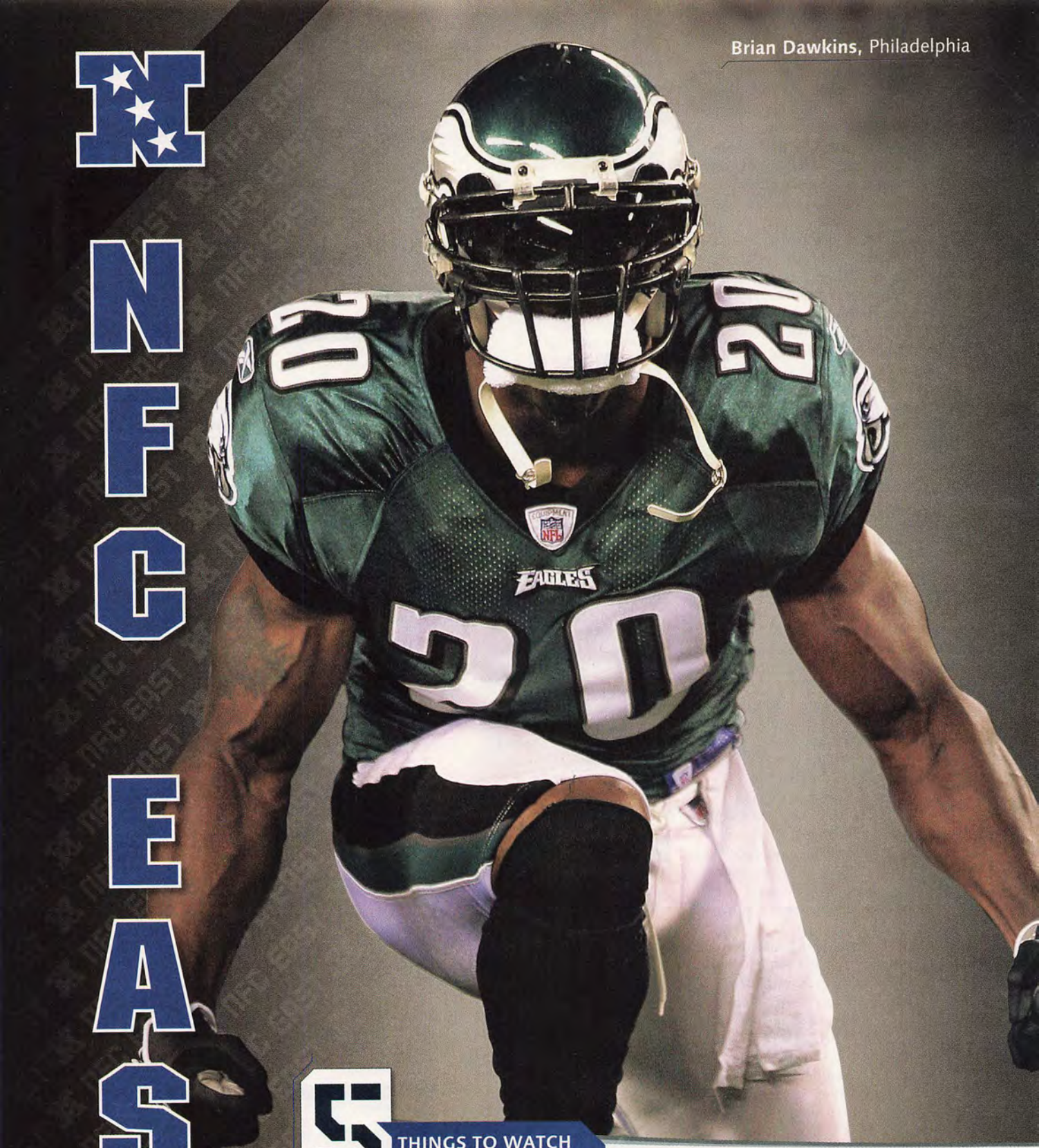
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 57 | Brown, Ricky | LB | 6-2 | 228 | 12/27/1983 | 1 | Boston College |
| 46 | Condo, Jon | LB | 6-3 | 250 | 08/26/1981 | 1 | Maryland |
| 50 | Ekejiuba, Isaiah | LB | 6-4 | 240 | 10/05/1981 | 2 | Virginia |
| 53 | Howard, Thomas | LB | 6-3 | 240 | 07/14/1983 | 1 | UTEP |
| 52 | Morrison, Kirk | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 02/19/1982 | 2 | San Diego State |
| 55 | Thomas, Robert | LB | 6-0 | 233 | 07/17/1980 | 5 | UCLA |
| 54 | Williams, Sam | LB | 6-5 | 260 | 07/28/1980 | 3 | Fresno State |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Janikowski, Sebastian | K | 6-2 | 250 | 03/02/1978 | 7 | Florida State |
| 9 | Lechler, Shane | P | 6-2 | 225 | 08/07/1976 | 7 | Texas A&M |

**LANE KIFFIN,** HEAD COACH

**Willie Brown**, def. backs; **Tom Cable**, off. line; **Charles Coe**, wide receivers; **James Cregg**, asst. off. line; **John DeFilippo**, quarterbacks; **Randy Hanson**, asst. def. backs; **Don Johnson**, asst. def. line; **Greg Knapp**, off. coord.; **Don Martindale**, linebackers; **Keith Millard**, def. line; **Darren Perry**, def. backs; **Tom Rathman**, running backs; **Rob Ryan**, def. coord.; **Brian Schneider**, special teams coord.; **Kelly Skipper**, tight ends

# NFC EAST




## 5 THINGS TO WATCH

1> Can the Eagles' Andy Reid continue to coach at such a high level despite problems involving two sons who caused him to take an uncharacteristic leave of absence after last season? He has clearly been the best coach in the division.

2> Hard to take your eyes off of the Cowboys' Terrell Owens, who is expected to be harder on Tony Romo than he was last season. If he's tougher on Wade Phillips than he was on Bill Parcells, watch Jerry Jones turn his smile upside down.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

1 EAGLES 126 | 2 COWBOYS 130 | 3 REDSKINS 134 | 4 GIANTS 138

## Eagles could soar over the pack with a healthy Donovan McNabb

By Don Pierson, *Chicago Tribune*

Normally, the Washington Redskins wouldn't be feeling too optimistic about their playoff chances after finishing last in the division. But they play in the NFC East, where they can point to the Philadelphia Eagles, who bounced from worst to first.

The Redskins were the only division team that failed to make the playoffs last season, as the 10-6 Eagles led the 9-7 Dallas Cowboys and 8-8 New York Giants into a postseason that produced only one win—a wild-card victory by the Eagles over the Giants.

If there are signs of anybody separating significantly from the pack, it's Coach Andy Reid's Eagles. They have won five of the last six division titles, as impressive a string of dominance as can be found in professional football these days. The only thing missing from the resume is a Super Bowl win.

They certainly found a way to not only survive but thrive without Terrell Owens, who became such a distraction in Dallas that he may have finally driven Bill Parcells out of the coaching business for good.

Owens now has a new coach to break in, easygoing Wade Phillips, who immediately outdid Parcells by calling his mercurial wide receiver by name.

Name-calling has become a pastime in the NFC East, where Giants Coach Tom Coughlin may have finally driven running back Tiki Barber out of the rushing business. Barber retired in his prime to go into television, where his criticism of Coughlin will no longer get him into trouble.

In Washington, Coach Joe Gibbs is keeping busy criticizing himself. He retells the story of his wife, Pat, warning him that he could likely ruin his Hall-of-Fame name with more years on the sidelines.

"I told her after last year, 'We're halfway there. We almost got this thing done,'" Gibbs says.

The Eagles continue to hold the edge in the East because they still have the best quarterback in the division in Donovan McNabb. Last year, after McNabb got hurt, they still put the best quarterback in the division on the field in veteran Jeff Garcia.

It was a true tribute to Reid that he could resurrect the career of Garcia, who had floundered in Cleveland and Detroit after leaving San Francisco. McNabb was playing lights out before he injured his knee, so his presence for an entire season should be an obvious lift.

Reid pulled the surprise move of the draft by making University of Houston quarterback Kevin Kolb his first pick in the second round, but said it was no reflection on McNabb's progress following surgery. Kolb just stuck out on his board, Reid says.

The rest of the division features inexperienced quarterbacks, although it's high time in New York for Eli Manning to shed the training wheels. If he doesn't, he'll have a new coach to break in next season because Coughlin knows he must win now.

Tony Romo was a pleasant surprise in Dallas until he surprised himself by letting that field-goal snap slip through his fingers in a playoff loss to Seattle.

Gibbs and his Redskins are just hoping Jason Campbell can be a pleasant surprise. His seven starts were fewer than Romo's 10. With 39 starts now under his belt, Manning is practically the old man of the division.

Since Romo made the Pro Bowl on the basis of only 10 starts, it puts more pressure than ever on Manning and is a telling indication of the state of NFC quarterbacking.

The Cowboys reinforced their commitment to Romo by passing up Notre Dame's Brady Quinn in the draft and trading the spot to Cleveland.

Redskins owner Daniel Snyder usually makes it a point to win the offseason with a spate of free-agent signings or trades. He wasn't nearly as active this time, although Snyder did give 32-year-old linebacker London Fletcher-Baker a signing bonus of $10.5 million to patch up a defense that tumbled to 31st in the league.

The Redskins don't value the draft, but they did wind up with the top defensive player picked in the division in LSU safety LaRon Landry.

Unhappily for the rest of the division, the Eagles appear to have helped themselves in free agency at least as much as anybody else by adding four players who will contribute immediately.

Fast slot receiver Kevin Curtis from St. Louis should not only offset the loss of deep threat Donte Stallworth but also gives McNabb a new dimension. Receiver Bethel Johnson will add speed and kick-returning ability. Montae Reagor figures in the defensive-line rotation and Takeo Spikes should start on a revamped linebacker unit.

The Cowboys were able to fill an open spot at safety by signing Seattle's Ken Hamlin. They believe huge Leonard Davis can shift from tackle to guard and help make up for last year's loss of Larry Allen.

The Giants traded for Cleveland running back Reuben Droughns to help holdover Brandon Jacobs make up for the loss of Barber, but Barber was simply the best football player in the NFC East and his absence will be felt strongly.

DREW HALLOWELL / GETTY IMAGES

**3** Giants Coach Tom Coughlin is becoming must-see TV on the sidelines. See Tom rant. See Tom rave. See the emotional coach watch over his undisciplined team. See if Tom can save his job. If he does, Coughlin might just be Coach of the Year.

**4** Look for signs of Washington owner Dan Snyder growing impatient with Coach Joe Gibbs. This could prove to be the ultimate test for the impetuous owner, who idolized Gibbs as a fan during the Redskins' glory days. Things could happen fast. Washington plays the Eagles and Giants in the first three weeks.

**5** Who will replace Tiki Barber as king of NFC East running backs? Will it be Brian Westbrook, Clinton Portis, Julius Jones or Barber's would-be successor, Brandon Jacobs? Somebody will have to stay as healthy as Barber was in the latter stages of a career that got better with age.

# PHILADELPHIA

1

## NFC EAST

- 2006 Record: 10-6

www.philadelphiaeagles.com

- LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD

Capacity: 68,532 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 215-463-5500

## Seems like old times

With a healthy Donovan McNabb set to return to his QB spot, Andy Reid's Eagles believe their 2004 Super Bowl run could be repeated this year.

After watching his team and his coach bounce back last season to gain a playoff berth, quarterback Donovan McNabb should now be ready to return from injury and reclaim his reputation as one of the NFC's best quarterbacks.

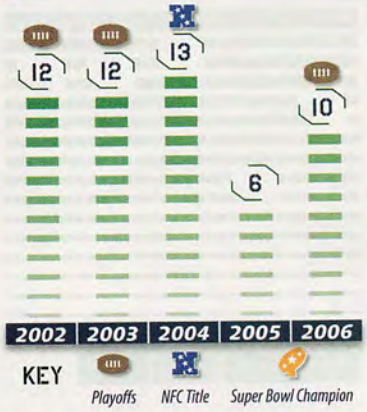
When McNabb went down with an ACL injury in Week 11, the Eagles were 5-5. Jeff Garcia took over and led a 5-1 stretch run that got Coach Andy Reid's team to its fifth division title in six years. After a month away in the offseason to attend to family problems, Reid expresses optimism about getting to another Super Bowl.

"If we take care of business and everybody works hard and pulls together and does their thing, we have as good a shot as anybody," Reid says.

Since Garcia signed with Tampa Bay, McNabb is now on the spot. But Reid was happy to see the rest of the team step up in McNabb's absence last year. Trying to prove they didn't need Terrell Owens was one thing; winning without McNabb did wonders.

"I think some of the team can learn from that; all of us can," Reid says. "Donovan started off on a record pace for any quarterback in the history of the National Football League, and

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND




### PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| QB | Donovan McNabb |
| FB | Thomas Tapeh |
| RB | Brian Westbrook |
| LT | William Thomas |
| LG | Todd Herremans |
| C | Jamaal Jackson |
| RG | Shawn Andrews |
| RT | Jon Runyan |
| TE | L.J. Smith |
| WR | Reggie Brown |
| WR | Kevin Curtis |

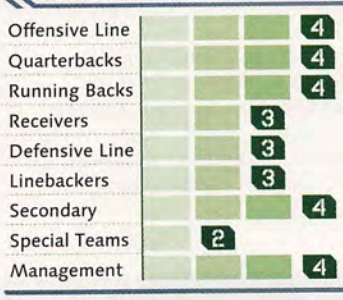
**DEFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| LE | Jevon Kearse |
| LT | Mike Patterson |
| RT | Brodrick Bunkley |
| RE | Trent Cole |
| LLB | Chris Gocong |
| MLB | Jeremiah Trotter |
| RLB | Takeo Spikes |
| LCB | Lito Sheppard |
| RCB | Sheldon Brown |
| SS | Sean Considine |
| FS | Brian Dawkins |

**SPECIAL TEAMS**

| | |
|---|---|
| P | Dirk Johnson |
| K | David Akers |
| PR | Jeremy Bloom |
| KR | Bethel Johnson |

### POWER RATINGS




TOM DIPACE

## THE BOOK ON ... *Brian Westbrook* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"If you think Tiki Barber retired, look again. He's been reincarnated in Philadelphia. Westbrook had his best season and it came with [Donovan] McNabb hurt and Terrell Owens gone. He stayed healthy even though his workload was the heaviest of his career. Remember when skeptics doubted Barber could hold up as a workhorse back? In Barber's first five seasons, he averaged 125 rushes. His last five, he averaged over 300. Westbrook averaged 124 rushes in his first four years. Last year, he had 240, plus 77 catches. [Coach] Andy Reid said he stepped up big-time in the locker room, too. Like Barber, he's getting better with age."

then he went through a lull. I think during those first few games there everybody just said, 'Hey, Donovan's going to show up and win the game for us.' And I think everybody pulled off just a bit, and I think when things started to go bad then they started rallying.

"Then when Donovan went down, they said, 'We need to take it up another step.' So the thing you can learn is you've got to maintain your level of play [and] not feed off another guy. You've got to do it for 16 games, and if you don't, there's going to be a problem."

If McNabb isn't ready for training camp or the preseason, Reid will give A.J. Feeley or newcomer Kelly Holcomb playing time, but nobody expects a repeat of last year's miracle run by a backup QB if McNabb again misses a sizable chunk of the regular season. If that happens, everybody will know why Reid made University of Houston quarterback Kevin Kolb his surprise first pick in the second round of this year's draft.

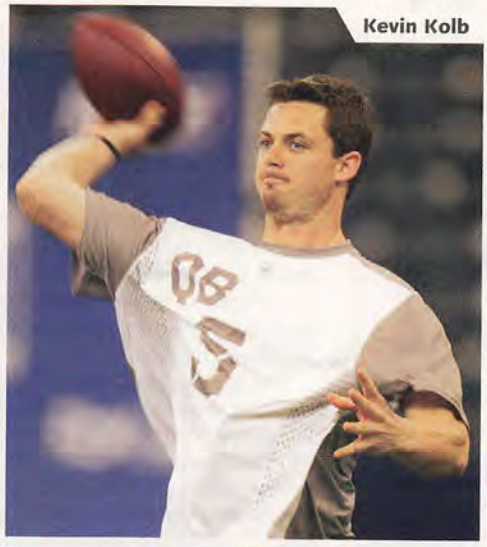
McNabb's return to his 2004 level of play is required if the Eagles want to make another Super Bowl run. If he can't, the future with Kolb will arrive much more quickly than anyone anticipated. Reid says Kolb stuck out on his draft board, but the coach passed up a lot of other positions that could have helped this team more quickly, which means there is concern for life after McNabb.

Running back Brian Westbrook is getting better each year and enjoyed his best season with 1,217 rushing yards and a 5.1-yard average, leading the Eagles in both rushing and receptions. He might

## DRAFT REPORT

In a surprise move, the Eagles made a trade with NFC East rival Dallas, giving the Cowboys a first-round selection. In exchange, Philadelphia added QB **Kevin Kolb** (No. 36), OLB **Stewart Bradley** (No. 87) and CB **C.J. Gaddis** (No. 159) with the picks it received from Dallas. Kolb put up big numbers in Houston's passing game and is expected to provide depth behind Donovan McNabb, who has missed significant time due to injuries the last two seasons. Bradley isn't flashy, but is an effective strongside linebacker with the ability to play over the tight end. Gaddis played cornerback and safety at Clemson and should provide quality depth. **Victor Abiamiri** was an underrated defensive end who could develop into a starter. **Tony Hunt** isn't flashy, but is a strong running back who can be effective in short-yardage situations. Tight end **Brent Celek** will provide depth behind L.J. Smith. **Rashad Barksdale** and **Nate Ilaoa** will likely end up on the practice squad.

GRADE **C-**



Kevin Kolb

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 4 | Kolb, Kevin | QB | 6-3 | 225 | Houston |
| 2 | 25 | Abiamiri, Victor | DE | 6-4 | 270 | Notre Dame |
| 3 | 24 | Bradley, Stewart | LB | 6-4 | 250 | Nebraska |
| 3 | 27 | Hunt, Tony | RB | 6-2 | 230 | Penn State |
| 5 | 22 | Gaddis, C.J. | S | 6-0 | 205 | Clemson |
| 5 | 25 | Celek, Brent | TE | 6-4 | 260 | Cincinnati |
| 6 | 27 | Barksdale, Rashad | CB | 6-2 | 210 | Albany |
| 7 | 26 | Ilaoa, Nate | RB | 5-9 | 248 | Hawaii |

### THE COUNT

| 1,031 | 798 | 6 |
|---|---|---|
| Rushing yards Brian Westbrook needs to move into fourth place on the team's all-time list and surpass Randall Cunningham (4,482). | Passing yards Donovan McNabb needs to pass Randall Cunningham (22,877) for second place in franchise history. Ron Jaworski is first with 26,963. | Number of years the Eagles have finished with at least 10 regular-season wins this decade, one more than the rest of the NFC East combined. |

TODD ROSENBERG / ICON SMI

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** @ *Green Bay*
SEPT. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 2** vs. *Washington*
SEPT. 17 | 8:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 3** vs. *Detroit*
SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 4** @ *New York Giants*
SEPT. 30 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 5** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 6** @ *New York Jets*
OCT. 14 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 12** vs. *Chicago*
OCT. 21 | 4:15
MUST-SEE GAME
*The NFC hasn't won a Super Bowl since the 2002 Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The Eagles and Bears think they are Super Bowl teams again, but there are doubts about their respective quarterbacks, Donovan McNabb and Rex Grossman.*
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 8** @ *Minnesota*
OCT. 28 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 9** vs. *Dallas*
NOV. 4 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 10** @ *Washington*
NOV. 11 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 11** vs. *Miami*
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 12** @ *New England*
NOV. 25 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 13** vs. *Seattle*
DEC. 2 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 14** vs. *New York Giants*
DEC. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 15** @ *Dallas*
DEC. 16 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 16** @ *New Orleans*
DEC. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 17** vs. *Buffalo*
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 24-10 | at Houston |
| 09/17 | L | 24-30 | New York Giants |
| 09/24 | W | 38-24 | at San Francisco |
| 10/02 | W | 31-9 | Green Bay |
| 10/08 | W | 38-24 | Dallas |
| 10/15 | L | 24-27 | at New Orleans |
| 10/22 | L | 21-23 | at Tampa Bay |
| 10/29 | L | 6-13 | Jacksonville |
| 11/12 | W | 27-3 | Washington |
| 11/19 | L | 13-31 | Tennessee |
| 11/26 | L | 21-45 | at Indianapolis |
| 12/04 | W | 27-24 | Carolina |
| 12/10 | W | 21-19 | at Washington |
| 12/17 | W | 36-22 | at New York Giants |
| 12/25 | W | 23-7 | at Dallas |
| 12/31 | W | 24-17 | Atlanta |

**WON 10, LOST 6**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Westbrook | 240 | 1217 | 5.1 | 71t | 7 |
| Buckhalter | 83 | 345 | 4.2 | 20 | 2 |
| McNabb | 32 | 212 | 6.6 | 37 | 3 |
| Garcia | 25 | 87 | 3.5 | 12 | 0 |
| Moats | 22 | 69 | 3.1 | 13 | 0 |
| R. Brown | 3 | 24 | 8.0 | 15t | 1 |
| Mahe | 4 | 18 | 4.5 | 11 | 0 |
| Tapeh | 5 | 9 | 1.8 | 4 | 0 |
| Feeley | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 |
| Johnson | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Eagles** | 416 | 1984 | 4.8 | 71t | 13 |
| **Opponents** | 489 | 2182 | 4.5 | 70t | 12 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Westbrook | 77 | 699 | 9.1 | 52t | 4 |
| Smith | 50 | 611 | 12.2 | 65 | 5 |
| R. Brown | 46 | 816 | 17.7 | 60t | 8 |
| Stallworth | 38 | 725 | 19.1 | 84t | 5 |
| G. Lewis | 24 | 348 | 14.5 | 45t | 2 |
| Buckhalter | 24 | 256 | 10.7 | 55t | 1 |
| Baskett | 22 | 464 | 21.1 | 89t | 2 |
| Tapeh | 16 | 85 | 5.3 | 15 | 1 |
| Schobel | 14 | 214 | 15.3 | 60 | 2 |
| Avant | 7 | 68 | 9.7 | 18 | 1 |
| Mahe | 5 | 23 | 4.6 | 8 | 0 |
| **Eagles** | 323 | 4309 | 13.3 | 89t | 31 |
| **Opponents** | 309 | 3367 | 10.9 | 75 | 17 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| McNabb | 316 | 180 | 2647 | 18 | 6 |
| Garcia | 188 | 116 | 1309 | 10 | 2 |
| Feeley | 38 | 26 | 342 | 3 | 0 |
| Akers | 1 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Baskett | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Eagles** | 544 | 323 | 4309 | 31 | 9 |
| **Opponents** | 525 | 309 | 3367 | 17 | 19 |

**SACKS**

T. Cole 8, J. Thomas 6, Walker 6, Howard 5, Kearse 3.5, M. Lewis 2, M. McCoy 2, Considine 1.5, Patterson 1.5, Dawkins 1, Gaither 1, Hood 1, McDougle 1, Jones 0.5

**EAGLES 40, OPPONENTS 28**

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Eagles)*

"[Coach] Andy Reid really made me a believer last year when the team bounced back as quickly as it did without Terrell Owens and especially after [Donovan] McNabb got hurt. Reid rescued Jeff Garcia's career and I'm thinking Garcia made a mistake in leaving that system. Now the challenge is to rescue McNabb from his slump. If losing Owens didn't slow them, losing Donté Stallworth isn't going to hurt either. Adding Kevin Curtis is a nice plus. [Brian] Westbrook remains the key. They have addressed problems on defense, but need ends [Jevon] Kearse and [Darren] Howard to stay healthy. I don't [know] if Takeo Spikes has anything left. Still the favorites in the East."

be more valuable than McNabb because backup running back Correll Buckhalter has never carried more than 129 times in a season. Adding big rookie backs in Tony Hunt and Nate Ilaoa to the mix gives Reid other options in a running game he no longer completely ignores.

After getting rid of Owens following the 2005 season, the Eagles recovered quite nicely by adding Donté Stallworth from New Orleans, whose 19.1-yard average provided a bona fide deep threat. But with Stallworth's departure to New England this offseason, the Eagles must adjust their passing game again, beginning with free-agent signee Kevin Curtis (St. Louis), who is versatile enough for Reid to stick him anywhere.

"He gives you the speed and the route running ability that we really haven't had, as far as the precision on the routes," Reid says of Curtis. "He's a tough kid. He'll be a nice addition, I think. And what people don't realize is he can play the inside. We're going to play him primarily on the outside, but he's been playing on the inside for the last few years and really has done a nice job."

The Eagles are enamored with budding second-year receiver Hank Baskett, who averaged a whopping 21.1 yards in only 22 catches. They also believe in Reggie Brown, whose eight touchdown catches led the team last year. Philadelphia also likes the potential of Jason Avant. With L.J. Smith, one of the league's best pass-catching tight ends, and the addition of draft pick Brent Celek along with backup Matt Schobel, McNabb should have no shortage of targets.

Reid's specialty is the offensive line. The Eagles again will line up with one of the league's strongest and biggest front five. Left to right, it's William Thomas, Todd Herremans, Jamaal Jackson, Shawn Andrews and Jon Runyan.

### DID YOU KNOW

Last season the Eagles allowed at least 200 rushing yards in each of their final four losses, including 208 yards in their divisional-round playoff loss to New Orleans.

Offseason acquisition Kevin Curtis has 12 career touchdown receptions, two fewer than Terrell Owens had with Philadelphia in 2004.

The Eagles have finished among the NFL's top 10 in sacks in every season this decade except for 2005, the only year they failed to make the playoffs.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**HANK BASKETT**
**wide receiver**

As a rookie, he averaged 21.1 yards a catch. The Eagles weren't overly concerned when Donté Stallworth left for New England because they like Baskett and Jason Avant.

They are backed by second-year prospects Winston Justice, Max Jean-Gilles, Pat McCoy and Nick Cole, along with third-year pro Scott Young, as Reid strives to keep a continual pipeline of talent.

Offseason maneuvering focused on retooling Defensive Coordinator Jim Johnson's front seven, especially the linebackers, where Reid claims all three jobs are "wide-open" for the 2007 season.

After finishing last year with rookie Omar Gaither on the weakside,

### EAGLES' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Harold Carmichael (1971-83)**
*Towering receiver pulled down 79 touchdowns in his 13 years with the team.*

**2 Tommy McDonald (1957-63)**
*The 5-9, 176-pound McDonald had a knack for finding the end zone with the Eagles, scoring 66 times on 287 receptions, a 1-in-4.4 ratio.*

**3 Pete Pihos (1947-55)**
*Made the Pro Bowl six straight times from 1950 to 1955, once as a defensive end.*

HOWARD SMITH / US PRESSWIRE

Jeremiah Trotter in the middle and Dhani Jones on the strongside, this year's lineup could feature Takeo Spikes, Chris Gocong and Matt McCoy.

The Eagles have never paid a whole lot of attention or money on linebackers, but the attitude could change this year, beginning with Spikes, who has played all three positions during his nine-year career in Cincinnati and Buffalo. Although he's coming off an Achilles' injury, Spikes pronounces himself 100 percent ready to go.

Trotter is aging in the middle and suited more to stopping the run, so Johnson will experiment in the preseason to arrive at his best combination. Gocong and McCoy are both talented, but coming off of injuries. Draft pick Stewart Bradley also will compete, probably on the strongside, where Tank Daniels also is in a wide-angle picture for the spot.

Injuries also limited defensive ends Darren Howard and Jevon Kearse last season, who could be critical to the Eagles' chances to improve this year. Trent Cole (8) and Juqua Thomas (6) led the team in sacks and are better suited to passing downs. Adding pass rusher Victor Abiamiri in the draft revealed concern in a critical area.

Inside, the Eagles traded Darwin Walker to Buffalo for Spikes and Holcomb, but signed free agent Montae Reagor from Indianapolis to team with Mike Patterson, Sam Rayburn, LaJuan Ramsey and Brodrick Bunkley. They expect a whole lot more out of Bunkley, last year's first-round draft pick, than they got last season when he missed training camp and ended up as one of the draft's few first-round disappointments.

The Eagles' all-star secondary suffered offseason losses in backup safety Michael Lewis (49ers) and cornerback Roderick Hood (Cardinals), but they still field quality starters in Sheldon Brown and Lito Sheppard at cornerback and Brian Dawkins and Sean Considine at safety. The backups are William James, Joselio Hanson and Quintin Mikell. Rookies C.J. Gaddis and Rashad Barksdale join that group.

The special teams added Bethel Johnson to return kickoffs. The Eagles hope punt-return man Jeremy Bloom can come back from the hamstring injury than ruined his rookie season. Punter Dirk Johnson and kicker David Akers head the usually strong special teams that slipped last season.

**FINAL GRADE**

**84**

STOCK REPORT: STEADY

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Kevin Curtis**, WR (STL)

With the Eagles continuing to experience life after Terrell Owens, the former Rams slot receiver gives them a reliable, speedy threat.

- Bethel Johnson, WR (MIN)
- Montae Reagor, DE (IND)
- Takeo Spikes, LB (trade, BUF)
- Kelly Holcomb, QB (trade, BUF)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Roderick Hood, CB (ARI)
- Michael Lewis, S (SF)
- Jeff Garcia, QB (TB)
- Donté Stallworth, WR (NE)
- Shawn Barber, LB (HOU)
- Darwin Walker, DT (trade, BUF)

> "The anticipation of this whole thing, I just want to get out there and prove myself. I have the opportunity to play. It doesn't really matter what you've done in the past, it's what you're doing lately. Now, I want to prove I'm the guy they think I can be."

*—free-agent acquisition Kevin Curtis on being a starter for the Eagles*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 381.4 | 2 |
| Rushing | 124.0 | 11 |
| Passing | 257.4 | 3 |
| Scoring | 398 | 6 |
| Punt Returns | 9.4 | 10 |
| Kick Returns | 20.8 | 28 |
| Red Zone TD % | 56.5 | 10 |
| Total Defense | 328.1 | 15 |
| Against Rush | 136.4 | 26 |
| Against Pass | 191.7 | 9 |
| Points Allowed | 328 | 16 |
| Interceptions | 19 | 8t |
| Sacks | 40 | 8t |
| Turnover Diff. | +5 | 9 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 312 | 106 | 189 | 17 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 46 | 213 | 26 | 10 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 31 | 0 | 5 |

## EAGLES ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | Feeley, A.J. | QB | 6-3 | 225 | 05/16/1977 | 4 | Oregon |
| 10 | Holcomb, Kelly | QB | 6-2 | 212 | 07/09/1973 | 6 | Middle Tenn. St. |
| 5 | McNabb, Donovan | QB | 6-2 | 240 | 11/25/1976 | 8 | Syracuse |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 73 | Andrews, Shawn | G | 6-4 | 340 | 12/25/1982 | 3 | Arkansas |
| 59 | Cole, Nick | C | 6-0 | 350 | 07/28/1984 | 1 | New Mexico State |
| 46 | Dorenbos, Jon | C | 6-0 | 250 | 07/21/1980 | 4 | UTEP |
| 79 | Herremans, Todd | G | 6-6 | 321 | 10/13/1982 | 2 | Saginaw Valley |
| 67 | Jackson, Jamaal | C | 6-4 | 330 | 05/08/1980 | 2 | Delaware State |
| 62 | Jean-Gilles, Max | G | 6-3 | 358 | 11/19/1983 | 0 | Georgia |
| 74 | Justice, Winston | T | 6-6 | 319 | 09/14/1984 | 0 | USC |
| 68 | McCoy, Pat | T | 6-5 | 328 | 12/14/1980 | 0 | West Texas A&M |
| 64 | Rodgers, Stefan | T | 6-4 | 305 | 11/03/1981 | 0 | Lambuth |
| 69 | Runyan, Jon | T | 6-7 | 330 | 11/27/1973 | 11 | Michigan |
| 72 | Thomas, William | T | 6-7 | 335 | 11/20/1974 | 9 | Florida State |
| 71 | Young, Scott | G | 6-4 | 312 | 07/15/1981 | 1 | Brigham Young |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | Buckhalter, Correll | RB | 6-0 | 217 | 10/06/1978 | 3 | Nebraska |
| 23 | Moats, Ryan | RB | 5-8 | 210 | 12/17/1982 | 2 | Louisiana Tech |
| 38 | Tapeh, Thomas | RB | 6-1 | 243 | 03/28/1980 | 2 | Minnesota |
| 36 | Westbrook, Brian | RB | 5-8 | 203 | 09/02/1979 | 5 | Villanova |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 81 | Avant, Jason | WR | 6-0 | 212 | 04/20/1983 | 1 | Michigan |
| 88 | Bartrum, Mike | TE | 6-4 | 245 | 06/23/1970 | 13 | Marshall |
| 84 | Baskett, Hank | WR | 6-4 | 220 | 09/04/1982 | 1 | New Mexico |
| 11 | Bloom, Jeremy | WR | 5-9 | 180 | 04/02/1982 | 0 | Colorado |
| 86 | Brown, Reggie | WR | 6-1 | 197 | 01/13/1981 | 2 | Georgia |
| 80 | Curtis, Kevin | WR | 5-11 | 186 | 07/17/1978 | 4 | Utah State |
| 16 | Johnson, Bethel | WR | 5-11 | 200 | 02/11/1979 | 4 | Texas A&M |
| 83 | Lewis, Greg | WR | 6-0 | 180 | 02/12/1980 | 4 | Illinois |
| 89 | Schobel, Matt | TE | 6-5 | 255 | 11/04/1978 | 5 | TCU |
| 82 | Smith, L.J. | TE | 6-3 | 258 | 05/13/1980 | 4 | Rutgers |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 97 | Bunkley, Brodrick | DT | 6-2 | 300 | 11/23/1983 | 1 | Florida State |
| 58 | Cole, Trent | DE | 6-3 | 270 | 10/05/1982 | 2 | Cincinnati |
| 90 | Howard, Darren | DE | 6-3 | 275 | 11/19/1976 | 7 | Kansas State |
| 93 | Kearse, Jevon | DE | 6-4 | 265 | 09/03/1976 | 8 | Florida |
| 95 | McDougle, Jerome | DE | 6-2 | 264 | 12/15/1978 | 3 | Miami (FL) |
| 98 | Patterson, Mike | DT | 6-0 | 292 | 09/01/1983 | 2 | USC |
| 77 | Ramsey, LaJuan | DT | 6-3 | 291 | 03/19/1984 | 1 | USC |
| 91 | Rayburn, Sam | DT | 6-3 | 303 | 10/20/1980 | 4 | Tulsa |
| 94 | Reagor, Montae | DT | 6-3 | 285 | 06/29/1977 | 8 | Texas Tech |
| 75 | Thomas, Juqua | DE | 6-2 | 250 | 05/15/1978 | 6 | Oklahoma State |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24 | Brown, Sheldon | CB | 5-10 | 200 | 03/19/1979 | 5 | South Carolina |
| 37 | Considine, Sean | S | 6-0 | 212 | 10/28/1981 | 2 | Iowa |
| 20 | Dawkins, Brian | S | 6-0 | 210 | 10/13/1973 | 11 | Clemson |
| 25 | Fox, Dustin | S | 5-11 | 190 | 10/08/1982 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 22 | Hanson, Joselio | CB | 5-9 | 170 | 08/13/1981 | 2 | Texas Tech |
| 21 | James, William | CB | 6-0 | 200 | 06/15/1979 | 6 | Western Illinois |
| 27 | Mikell, Quintin | S | 5-10 | 206 | 09/16/1980 | 4 | Boise State |
| 26 | Sheppard, Lito | CB | 5-10 | 194 | 04/08/1981 | 5 | Florida |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 58 | Cain, Jeremy | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 03/24/1980 | 2 | Massachusetts |
| 56 | Daniels, Tank | LB | 6-3 | 248 | 12/27/1981 | 1 | Harding |
| 96 | Gaither, Omar | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 03/18/1984 | 1 | Tennessee |
| 57 | Gocong, Chris | LB | 6-2 | 263 | 11/16/1983 | 0 | Cal Poly |
| 50 | McCoy, Matt | LB | 5-11 | 230 | 10/14/1982 | 2 | San Diego State |
| 52 | Richmond, Greg | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 07/15/1981 | 0 | Oklahoma State |
| 53 | Roper, Dedrick | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 07/31/1981 | 2 | Northwood (MI) |
| 51 | Spikes, Takeo | LB | 6-2 | 242 | 12/17/1976 | 9 | Auburn |
| 54 | Trotter, Jeremiah | LB | 6-1 | 262 | 01/20/1977 | 9 | Stephen F. Austin |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Akers, David | K | 5-10 | 200 | 12/09/1974 | 9 | Louisville |
| 3 | Cochrane, E.J. | K | 5-11 | 196 | 10/31/1980 | 0 | Montana State |
| 8 | Johnson, Dirk | P | 6-0 | 205 | 06/01/1975 | 5 | Northern Colorado |

**ANDY REID**, HEAD COACH

**Marty Mornhinweg**, asst. head coach/off. coord.; **Jim Johnson**, def. coord.; **Rory Segrest**, special teams coord.; **John Harbaugh**, secondary; **Pete Jenkins**, def. line; **Juan Castillo**, off. line; **David Culley**, wide receivers; **Tom Melvin**, tight ends; **Sean McDermott**, linebackers; **Pat Shurmur**, quarterbacks; **Trent Walters**, secondary; **Ted Williams**, running backs

# DALLAS

# 2

**NFC EAST**

2006 Record: 9-7
www.dallascowboys.com
**TEXAS STADIUM**
Capacity: 65,595 Turf: Artificial
Tickets: 214-253-6060

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Tony Romo |
| FB | Lousaka Polite |
| RB | Julius Jones |
| LT | Flozell Adams |
| LG | Kyle Kosier |
| C | Andre Gurode |
| RG | Leonard Davis |
| RT | Marc Colombo |
| TE | Jason Witten |
| WR | Terry Glenn |
| WR | Terrell Owens |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Marcus Spears |
| DT | Jason Ferguson |
| RE | Chris Canty |
| OLB | Greg Ellis |
| ILB | Bradie James |
| ILB | Akin Ayodele |
| OLB | DeMarcus Ware |
| LCB | Terence Newman |
| RCB | Anthony Henry |
| SS | Roy Williams |
| FS | Ken Hamlin |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Mat McBriar |
| K | Nick Folk |
| PR | Terence Newman |
| KR | Miles Austin |

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 3 |
| Quarterbacks | 3 |
| Running Backs | 3 |
| Receivers | 4 |
| Defensive Line | 3 |
| Linebackers | 3 |
| Secondary | 4 |
| Special Teams | 3 |
| Management | 3 |

## Wade-ing in

New Cowboys Coach Phillips looks like a good fit in Big D, but can he handle the high expectations and constant meddling of owner Jerry Jones?

New Cowboys Coach Wade Phillips is a breath of fresh air after Bill Parcells, who seemed like he could barely stand himself. Losing was taking too great a toll on Parcells, whose attitude was permeating the entire organization, hindering excellence rather than encouraging it. He was a good coach, and smart enough to know it was time to leave.

Enter Phillips, a born-and-bred Texan, plain spoken and more successful than his reputation might suggest. During five full seasons as a head coach in Denver and Buffalo, he had only one losing record, which makes you wonder why he was job-hunting.

Phillips has the kind of personality that should enable him to not only work well with owner/GM Jerry Jones, but also appreciate Jones' obsessive desire to win. With a Texas-sized new stadium on the horizon, this could mark the beginning of a glorious new era.

This is the hope and expectation of the Cowboys, at least. After four years with Parcells, they have no doubt improved, but remain a work-in-progress, still short of the

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

## THE BOOK ON ... *DeMarcus Ware* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"It will be interesting to see how [Dallas Coach Wade] Phillips is able to turn Ware loose now that he has Anthony Spencer on the other side. Ware already led the team in sacks, tackles for losses [tied with Akin Ayodele] and forced fumbles. He's a force. Very good instincts and was able to make the switch from 4-3 to 3-4. Not a whole lot of natural pass rushers also have his ability to play in space.

"The thing that slows him down is he needs more help. If he doesn't make the play, somebody else has to step up because teams are figuring out ways to gang up on him and neutralize him. His strength isn't to blow up blocks. Remember the Cowboys drafted him one pick before the Chargers drafted [Shawne] Merriman, so Phillips will have a unique perspective on their skills and on Ware's potential. He's one of the league's budding stars."

kind of personnel and confidence that routinely competes for championships.

It is Jones who has come under fire lately as much or more than his coaches. Calls for him to step aside and hire a full-time general manager to run the day-to-day operations have not been answered. But you've got to think if Phillips can't get the job done under the current structure, the next step may be for Jones to look elsewhere. He's grooming two sons, so you can bet the family isn't eager to bring an outsider into the inner circle.

Phillips' first and most important contribution will be to turn a promising defense into a dominant one. The Cowboys already had more takeaways than Phillips' San Diego Chargers (where he had been defensive coordinator), so that's a start.

The Chargers' defense had more star players, so it is Phillips' challenge to get as much help for pass-rushing linebacker DeMarcus Ware as Shawne Merriman has in San Diego. With his first pick in this year's draft, Phillips addressed that need by adding Purdue pass rusher Anthony Spencer. The Cowboys also are counting on young defensive players such as ends Marcus Spears and Chris Canty, linebacker Bobby Carpenter and cornerback Terence Newman to break out and improve.

Assuming Phillips will get continued improvement from quarterback Tony Romo is a given. This will be Romo's first offseason and full season as the starter, so it is expected that he should blossom even more now that it's unquestionably his team. If there is any hangover from the unfortunate way Romo let the playoff game against Seattle slip through his fingers, then the Cowboys really have no chance.

Fumbling a snap should be no more traumatic than throwing an interception, and any quarterback who can't shake it off isn't going to last long in the NFL. How Romo meshes with new Offensive Coordinator Jason Garrett will be crucial to the Cowboys' season. By passing up a shot to draft highly regarded Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn, the Cowboys underscored their confidence in Romo.

### COWBOYS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Michael Irvin** (1988-99)
*"The Playmaker" joined the Hall this year after a career that combined 750 receptions, 11,904 receiving yards, 65 touchdowns and two Super Bowl rings.*

2. **Drew Pearson** (1973-83)
*A good amount of Pearson's 489 career receptions came in the clutch, like his famous grab of Roger Staubach's "Hail Mary" to top the Vikings in the 1975 NFC Divisional Playoff.*

3. **Bob Hayes** (1965-74)
*Few in the NFL could catch "Bullet Bob," and no Cowboys player has yet approached his 71 career TD receptions or 20-yard average per catch.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**TONY ROMO**
quarterback

Making the Pro Bowl after only 10 starts sets him up for either a breakthrough or letdown. The Cowboys are counting on a big jump now that he has emerged from obscurity and convinced them not to draft Brady Quinn.

### DID YOU KNOW

The Cowboys' 425 points last year was their highest total since 1995. Dallas scored at least 35 points four times in 2006 after doing it only four times in the previous six seasons.

Terrell Owens is second in the NFL with 84 receiving touchdowns since the start of the 2000 season, trailing Indianapolis' Marvin Harrison (89). Owens led the league last year in that category with 13.

Marion Barber was third in the league with 14 rushing touchdowns last season despite running for only 40.9 yards a game, the lowest average of any player with 10 or more rushing scores.

### THE COUNT

| 20.3 | 164 | 48.2 |
|---|---|---|
| Wide receiver Terry Glenn's yards per reception on first down in 2006, his highest mark on any down. | Jason Witten's total receptions against conference opponents since 2004, the most by a tight end in NFC play. | Mat McBriar's punting average in 2006, best in the NFL. |

RANDY LITZINGER

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. *New York Giants* — SEPT. 9 | 8:15 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 2** @ *Miami* — SEPT. 16 | 4:05 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 3** @ *Chicago* — SEPT. 23 | 8:15 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 4** vs. *St. Louis* — SEPT. 30 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 5** @ *Buffalo* — OCT. 8 | 8:30 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 6** vs. *New England* — OCT. 14 | 4:15 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 7** vs. *Minnesota* — OCT. 21 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 8** *OPEN DATE*
**WEEK 9** @ *Philadelphia* — NOV. 4 | 8:15

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*Forget another trip back for Terrell Owens. This Sunday night matchup is to see whether the Eagles should have traded their 2007 first-round draft pick to Dallas that ended up landing pass rusher Anthony Spencer. Owens is old news.*

W / L SCORE

**WEEK 10** @ *New York Giants* — NOV. 11 | 4:15 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 11** vs. *Washington* — NOV. 18 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 12** vs. *New York Jets* — NOV. 22 | 4:15 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 13** vs. *Green Bay* — NOV. 29 | 8:15 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 14** @ *Detroit* — DEC. 9 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 15** vs. *Philadelphia* — DEC. 16 | 4:15 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 16** @ *Carolina* — DEC. 22 | 8:15 — W / L SCORE
**WEEK 17** @ *Washington* — DEC. 30 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 17-24 | at Jacksonville |
| 09/17 | W | 27-10 | Washington |
| 10/01 | W | 45-14 | at Tennessee |
| 10/08 | L | 24-38 | at Philadelphia |
| 10/15 | W | 34-6 | Houston |
| 10/23 | L | 22-36 | New York Giants |
| 10/29 | W | 35-14 | at Carolina |
| 11/05 | L | 19-22 | at Washington |
| 11/12 | W | 27-10 | at Arizona |
| 11/19 | W | 21-14 | Indianapolis |
| 11/23 | W | 38-10 | Tampa Bay |
| 12/03 | W | 23-20 | at New York Giants |
| 12/10 | L | 17-42 | New Orleans |
| 12/16 | W | 38-28 | at Atlanta |
| 12/25 | L | 7-23 | Philadelphia |
| 12/31 | L | 31-39 | Detroit |

**WON 9, LOST 7**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J. Jones | 267 | 1084 | 4.1 | 77t | 4 |
| Barber | 135 | 654 | 4.8 | 25 | 14 |
| Romo | 34 | 102 | 3.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Thompson | 13 | 30 | 2.3 | 7t | 1 |
| Bledsoe | 8 | 28 | 3.5 | 11 | 2 |
| Polite | 7 | 18 | 2.6 | 4 | 0 |
| T. Glenn | 3 | 11 | 3.7 | 22 | 0 |
| McBriar | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Cowboys** | 472 | 1936 | 4.1 | 77t | 21 |
| **Opponents** | 429 | 1659 | 3.9 | 38t | 12 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Owens | 85 | 1180 | 13.9 | 56t | 13 |
| T. Glenn | 70 | 1047 | 15.0 | 54 | 6 |
| Witten | 64 | 754 | 11.8 | 42 | 1 |
| Crayton | 36 | 516 | 14.3 | 53t | 4 |
| Barber | 23 | 196 | 8.5 | 26 | 2 |
| Fasano | 14 | 126 | 9.0 | 22 | 0 |
| J. Jones | 9 | 142 | 15.8 | 39 | 0 |
| Hurd | 5 | 75 | 15.0 | 33 | 0 |
| Polite | 2 | 21 | 10.5 | 12 | 0 |
| Hoyte | 2 | 10 | 5.0 | 6 | 0 |
| **Cowboys** | 310 | 4067 | 13.1 | 56t | 26 |
| **Opponents** | 301 | 3729 | 12.4 | 87t | 25 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Romo | 337 | 220 | 2903 | 19 | 13 |
| Bledsoe | 169 | 90 | 1164 | 7 | 8 |
| **Cowboys** | 506 | 310 | 4067 | 26 | 21 |
| **Opponents** | 511 | 301 | 3729 | 25 | 18 |

**SACKS**

Ware 11.5, Ellis 4.5, K. Coleman 4, Ratliff 4, Hatcher 2.5, Carpenter 1.5, A. Ayodele 1, Bowen 1, Burnett 1, Canty 1, Singleton 1, Spears 1, Stanley 0.5

**COWBOYS 34, OPPONENTS 37**

## DRAFT REPORT

In a rare division trade, the Eagles allowed Dallas to get back into the first round to select one of the draft's top pass rushers in **Anthony Spencer**. This move could haunt Philadelphia's quarterbacks and overall offense in years to come. Despite re-signing Marc Colombo and adding Leonard Davis in free agency, the Cowboys added two quality offensive linemen in **James Marten** and **Doug Free**. Both have the skills to eventually start in the league. Quarterback **Isaiah Stanback** was off to an impressive start last year before suffering a season-ending injury. Stanback will have a chance to learn behind Tony Romo and Brad Johnson or get a look at wide receiver. Even though the top kicker in the draft, Mason Crosby, was still on the draft board, the Cowboys reached for Arizona's **Nick Folk**, who will battle with Martin Gramatica for the job in 2007. The athletic **Deon Anderson** from Connecticut was added to compete with converted LB Oliver Hoyte and Lousaka Polite for the starting fullback job. **Courtney Brown** and **Alan Ball** have a chance to stick as reserves at cornerback.

**GRADE B**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 26 | Spencer, Anthony | DE | 6-3 | 266 | Purdue |
| 3 | 3 | Marten, James | T | 6-8 | 315 | Boston College |
| 4 | 4 | Stanback, Isaiah | QB | 6-3 | 205 | Washington |
| 4 | 23 | Free, Doug | T | 6-7 | 315 | Northern Illinois |
| 6 | 4 | Folk, Nicholas | K | 6-2 | 206 | Arizona |
| 6 | 21 | Anderson, Deon | RB | 5-11 | 249 | Connecticut |
| 7 | 2 | Brown, Courtney | CB | 6-2 | 205 | Cal Poly |
| 7 | 27 | Ball, Alan | CB | 6-1 | 175 | Illinois |

Romo's ability to improvise separated him from Drew Bledsoe and juiced the Dallas offense. Working with dynamic receivers Terry Glenn, Terrell Owens and Jason Witten for a full offseason should fine-tune a passing offense that was fifth in the league despite last year's quarterback change. It will be interesting to see how Owens plays without the very good excuse of a broken finger. Critics forget his 13 touchdown catches led the league even when Owens wasn't entirely healthy, so he remains a potent force.

If Romo falters, newcomer Brad Johnson still has the desire to do more than hold the kid's hand. The Cowboys selected Washington quarterback Isaiah Stanback in the fourth round (way better than the undrafted Romo once warranted) but immediately switched him to receiver to help rather than threaten Romo.

The Cowboys divided the running load between Julius Jones and Marion Barber and got 1,738 yards between them. Barber was used more at the goal line, but is expected to have more chances to spell Jones in different situations. Barber is an excellent receiver and good third-down back. Tyson Thompson is coming off an ankle injury as the third running back.

Draft pick Deon Anderson is expected to challenge Lousaka Polite at the starting fullback position, where rookie Oliver Hoyte, a converted linebacker, started five games last season.

Behind the top three receivers, the Cowboys have wide receiver Patrick Crayton and tight end Anthony Fasano and wouldn't mind seeing more out of second-year wideouts Sam Hurd and Miles Austin, as well as a rapid transition by the intriguing Stanback.

The addition of the huge Leonard Davis should strengthen the offensive line, which suffered from the loss of Larry Allen last season. Davis, a former left tackle, is expected to replace

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Cowboys)*

"I think the Cowboys can win the division, especially if Philly falters. You've got to think the defense will be better under Wade Phillips instead of having Bill Parcells and his coordinator, Mike Zimmer, coming from different philosophies. Phillips gets credit for San Diego's success and deserves it. Ken Hamlin should help them at safety, where they need it because Roy Williams can't cover. Hamlin isn't that great either, but better than they had. ...

"Tony Romo has to keep getting better. They've got to hope his early showing wasn't a fluke. He's got skills, but he was a free agent and the Kurt Warners don't come around very often. ... They've got Leonard Davis where he belongs at right guard, but no right guard is worth his kind of money."

Marco Rivera at right guard, but also gives the Cowboys flexibility in serving as a third tackle behind starters Flozell Adams on the left and Marc Colombo on the right. Left guard Kyle Kosier and center Andre Gurode are starters, with Pat McQuistan, Jim Molinaro, Cory Procter and Joe Berger backing up and draft picks James Marten and Doug Free providing hope for the future.

On defense, veteran nose tackle Jason Ferguson played well between Spears and Canty, but Phillips needs more from the ends. Three second-year backups, Montavious Stanley, Jason Hatcher and Stephen Bowen, along with third-year backup Jay Ratliff, leave the Cowboys thin on defensive line experience.

The linebacking lineup will be a challenge for Phillips. He needs Greg Ellis to come back solid from an Achilles injury, which isn't easy at age 32. Ellis' 4.5 sacks were second on the team to Ware's 11.5. Spencer is expected to play end in passing situations, which could limit Ellis' role. Since Spencer is primarily suited to outside linebacker, Carpenter may be moving inside, where he can help make up for the loss of backup Ryan Fowler (Titans).

Bradie James and Akin Ayodele finished one-two in tackles for the Cowboys while manning the starting inside spots and Ware was outstanding as a one-man gang. Spencer's presence threatens the playing time of backup Kevin Burnett. Ayodele also could emerge as more of a pass rusher in Phillips' scheme.

Ken Hamlin (acquired in the offseason) rebounded from a head injury to play well for Seattle last year and will fill a much-needed hole at free safety ahead of Patrick Watkins and Keith Davis. Roy Williams is a force when the Cowboys can leave him in the box near the line of scrimmage. He's a liability in coverage, however.

Terence Newman and Anthony Henry, joined by nickel back Aaron Glenn, are quite adequate. Jacques Reeves, Quincy Butler, Nathan Jones and draft picks Courtney Brown and Alan Ball will vie for roster spots.

The Cowboys re-signed placekicker Martin Gramatica after Mike Vanderjagt bombed, but are expecting draft choice Nick Folk to strongly challenge for the job. Punter Mat McBriar had the NFL's top average last season at 48.2 yards per punt. Miles Austin returned kickoffs very well and Newman did a good job returning punts, but no team likes to expose starters, so Stanback will get a shot at the job, providing he is fully recovered from a foot injury.

**FINAL GRADE** 80

**STOCK REPORT** ▲ UP

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Leonard Davis**, OL (ARI)

*Paying a right guard a $49.6 million contract proves the Cowboys intend to run behind the 366-pound giant.*

- Brad Johnson, QB (MIN)
- Jim Molinaro, OT (WAS)
- Ken Hamlin, DB SEA)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Kenyon Coleman, DE (NYJ)
- Al Johnson, C (ARI)
- Ryan Fowler, LB (TEN)
- Jason Fabini, OT (WAS)
- Drew Bledsoe, QB (retired)

> "I've been looking forward to it [a fresh start]. I get all happy and excited just to know that something new is coming up. It will be a challenge, but I'm all about the challenges. I've dealt with challenges all my life. The expectations—there's something that's not new to me."

*—free-agent acquisition Leonard Davis on the changes that come with joining a new team*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 360.8 | 5 |
| Rushing | 121.0 | 13 |
| Passing | 239.8 | 5 |
| Scoring | 425 | 4 |
| Punt Returns | 8.4 | 21 |
| Kick Returns | 23.3 | 8 |
| Red Zone TD % | 60.3 | 4 |
| Total Defense | 322.8 | 13 |
| Against Rush | 103.7 | 10 |
| Against Pass | 219.1 | 24 |
| Points Allowed | 350 | 20 |
| Interceptions | 18 | 10t |
| Sacks | 34 | 19t |
| Turnover Diff. | +1 | 15t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 336 | 107 | 197 | 32 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 58 | 285 | 35 | 13 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | 26 | 1 | 4 |

## COWBOYS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | Baker, Matt | QB | 6-2 | 212 | 05/11/1983 | 0 | North Carolina |
| 14 | Johnson, Brad | QB | 6-5 | 226 | 09/13/1968 | 13 | Florida State |
| 9 | Romo, Tony | QB | 6-2 | 225 | 04/21/1980 | 3 | Eastern Illinois |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 76 | Adams, Flozell | T | 6-7 | 340 | 05/18/1975 | 9 | Michigan State |
| 67 | Berger, Joe | G | 6-5 | 305 | 05/25/1982 | 1 | Michigan Tech |
| 75 | Colombo, Marc | T | 6-8 | 320 | 10/08/1978 | 4 | Boston College |
| 66 | Darilek, Trey | G | 6-5 | 310 | 04/23/1981 | 2 | UTEP |
| 70 | Davis, Leonard | G-T | 6-6 | 366 | 09/05/1978 | 6 | Texas |
| 65 | Gurode, Andre | C-T | 6-4 | 312 | 03/06/1978 | 5 | Colorado |
| 63 | Kosier, Kyle | G-T | 6-5 | 305 | 11/27/1978 | 5 | Arizona State |
| 77 | McQuistan, Pat | T | 6-6 | 315 | 04/30/1983 | 1 | Weber State |
| 69 | Molinaro, Jim | T | 6-6 | 310 | 04/27/1981 | 3 | Notre Dame |
| 71 | Procter, Cory | G | 6-4 | 305 | 10/18/1982 | 0 | Montana |
| 62 | Rivera, Marco | G | 6-4 | 309 | 04/26/1972 | 10 | Penn State |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24 | Barber, Marion | RB | 6-0 | 220 | 06/10/1983 | 2 | Minnesota |
| 46 | Hoyte, Oliver | FB | 6-3 | 250 | 10/05/1984 | 1 | N.C. State |
| 21 | Jones, Julius | RB | 5-10 | 211 | 08/14/1981 | 3 | Notre Dame |
| 39 | Polite, Lousaka | RB | 6-0 | 248 | 09/14/1981 | 3 | Pittsburgh |
| 28 | Thompson, Tyson | RB | 6-1 | 220 | 05/21/1981 | 2 | San Jose State |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | Austin, Miles | WR | 6-3 | 215 | 06/30/1984 | 1 | Monmouth |
| 12 | Bilbo, Damarius | WR | 6-2 | 220 | 12/03/1982 | 0 | Georgia Tech |
| 84 | Crayton, Patrick | WR | 6-0 | 205 | 04/07/1979 | 3 | Northwestern Okla. St. |
| 80 | Fasano, Anthony | TE | 6-4 | 258 | 04/20/1984 | 1 | Notre Dame |
| 83 | Glenn, Terry | WR | 5-11 | 195 | 07/23/1974 | 11 | Ohio State |
| 17 | Hurd, Sam | WR | 6-2 | 195 | 04/24/1985 | 1 | Northern Illinois |
| 81 | Owens, Terrell | WR | 6-3 | 224 | 12/07/1973 | 11 | Chattanooga |
| 85 | Rector, Jamaica | WR | 5-10 | 180 | 08/10/1981 | 1 | NW Missouri St. |
| 87 | Thorn, Andy | TE | 6-5 | 250 | 02/04/1982 | 1 | Northern Iowa |
| 89 | Urban, Jerheme | WR | 6-3 | 212 | 11/26/1980 | 2 | Trinity (TX) |
| 82 | Witten, Jason | TE | 6-5 | 265 | 05/06/1982 | 4 | Tennessee |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 72 | Bowen, Stephen | DE | 6-5 | 300 | 03/28/1984 | 1 | Hofstra |
| 99 | Canty, Chris | DE | 6-7 | 300 | 11/10/1982 | 2 | Virginia |
| 95 | Ferguson, Jason | DT | 6-3 | 310 | 11/28/1974 | 9 | Georgia |
| 53 | Glymph, Junior | DE | 6-5 | 270 | 09/02/1980 | 3 | Carson-Newman |
| 97 | Hatcher, Jason | DE | 6-6 | 295 | 07/13/1982 | 1 | Grambling State |
| 91 | Ladouceur, L.P. | DE | 6-4 | 255 | 03/13/1981 | 2 | California |
| 90 | Ratliff, Jeremiah | DE | 6-4 | 305 | 08/29/1981 | 2 | Auburn |
| 96 | Spears, Marcus | DE | 6-4 | 298 | 03/08/1983 | 2 | LSU |
| 60 | Stanley, Montavious | DT | 6-2 | 310 | 09/10/1981 | 1 | Louisville |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 36 | Butler, Quincy | CB | 6-1 | 190 | 11/25/1981 | 1 | TCU |
| 29 | Davis, Keith | S | 5-11 | 205 | 12/30/1978 | 4 | Sam Houston State |
| 37 | Elam, Abram | S | 6-0 | 210 | 10/15/1981 | 1 | Kent State |
| 26 | Glenn, Aaron | CB | 5-9 | 185 | 07/16/1972 | 13 | Texas A&M |
| 27 | Hamlin, Ken | S | 6-2 | 209 | 01/20/1981 | 4 | Arkansas |
| 42 | Henry, Anthony | CB | 6-1 | 208 | 11/03/1976 | 6 | South Florida |
| 33 | Jones, Nathan | CB | 5-10 | 192 | 06/13/1982 | 3 | Rutgers |
| 41 | Newman, Terence | CB | 5-11 | 195 | 09/04/1978 | 4 | Kansas State |
| 35 | Reeves, Jacques | CB | 5-11 | 192 | 10/08/1982 | 3 | Purdue |
| 23 | Thomas, Joey | CB | 6-1 | 190 | 08/29/1980 | 2 | Montana State |
| 25 | Watkins, Pat | S | 6-5 | 211 | 12/18/1982 | 1 | Florida State |
| 31 | Williams, Roy | S | 6-0 | 229 | 08/14/1980 | 5 | Oklahoma |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 51 | Ayodele, Akin | LB | 6-2 | 250 | 09/17/1979 | 5 | Purdue |
| 57 | Burnett, Kevin | LB | 6-3 | 240 | 12/24/1982 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 54 | Carpenter, Bobby | LB | 6-2 | 257 | 08/01/1983 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 98 | Ellis, Greg | LB | 6-6 | 270 | 08/14/1975 | 9 | North Carolina |
| 56 | James, Bradie | LB | 6-2 | 250 | 01/17/1981 | 4 | LSU |
| 94 | Ware, DeMarcus | LB | 6-4 | 257 | 07/31/1982 | 2 | Troy |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Gramatica, Martin | K | 5-8 | 175 | 11/27/1975 | 7 | Kansas State |
| 1 | McBriar, Mat | P | 6-1 | 223 | 07/08/1979 | 3 | Hawaii |

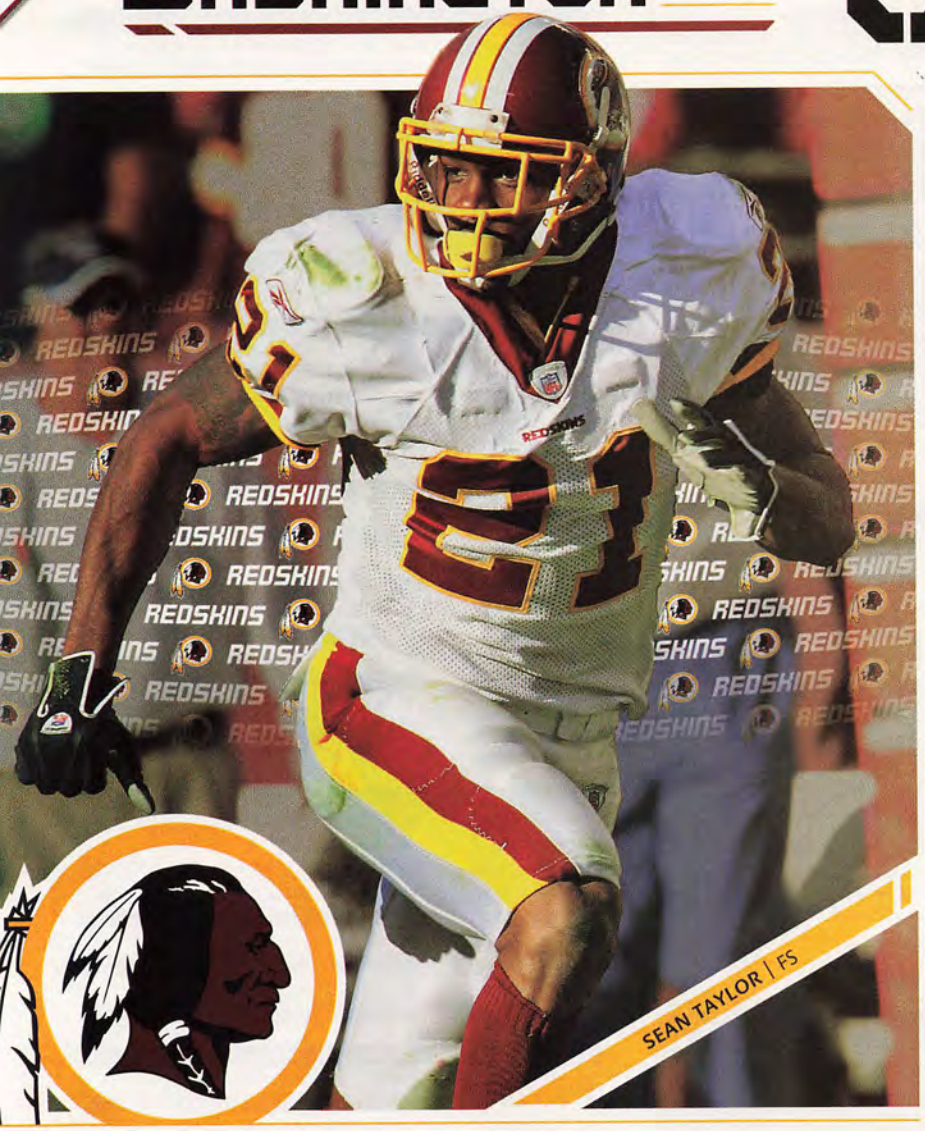
**WADE PHILLIPS**, HEAD COACH

**Tony Sparano**, asst. head coach; **Jason Garrett**, off. coord.; **Ray Sherman**, wide receivers; **John Garrett**, tight ends; **Skip Peete**, running backs; **Wade Wilson**, quarterbacks; **Brian Stewart**, def. coord.; **Paul Pasqualoni**, linebackers; **Kacy Rodgers**, def. line; **Todd Bowles**, secondary; **Bruce Read**, special teams

# WASHINGTON 3

**NFC EAST**

2006 Record: 5-11
www.redskins.com
FEDEX FIELD
Capacity: 91,665 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 301-276-6050




## Average Joe's

Even with all the high-priced coaching talent, there's still not much special about this group of Redskins.

Joe Gibbs tells critics to "hang it on me" for the disappointing 21-27 record of the Redskins during his three-year return to coaching. Soon, Redskin fans are going to take his advice if owner Dan Snyder doesn't beat them to it.

In Washington, players and coaches get replaced faster than politicians. Because he's already in the Hall of Fame, Gibbs has escaped the rap so far. A repeat of last year's 5-11 showing would put Snyder on the spot and, after a relatively quiet offseason

### REDSKINS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Charley Taylor** (1964-77)
*Made the Pro Bowl eight times and totaled 10,803 combined net yards and 90 touchdowns in his Hall-of-Fame career.*

**2 Art Monk** (1980-93)
*Monk was the first player to catch more than 900 passes and once held the records for single-season receptions (106) and consecutive games with a catch (183).*

**3 Gary Clark** (1985-92)
*Always a threat, Clark had 70 receptions for 1,340 yards and 10 scores during the 1991 season and seven catches for 114 yards and a TD in Washington's Super Bowl XXVI win.*

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

### PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Jason Campbell |
| FB | Mike Sellers |
| RB | Clinton Portis |
| LT | Chris Samuels |
| LG | Todd Wade |
| C | Casey Rabach |
| RG | Randy Thomas |
| RT | Jon Jansen |
| TE | Chris Cooley |
| WR | Santana Moss |
| WR | Brandon Lloyd |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Phillip Daniels |
| LT | Cornelius Griffin |
| RT | Joe Salave'a |
| RE | Andre Carter |
| LLB | Marcus Washington |
| MLB | London Fletcher-Baker |
| RLB | Rocky McIntosh |
| LCB | Shawn Springs |
| RCB | Carlos Rogers |
| SS | LaRon Landry |
| FS | Sean Taylor |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Derrick Frost |
| K | Shaun Suisham |
| PR | Antwaan Randle El |
| KR | Rock Cartwright |

### POWER RATINGS

BRUCE SCHWARTZMAN

by Redskins standards, there's no assurance the team is any better.

A lot depends on young quarterback Jason Campbell, who enters his first full season as the starter without much stability around him. Fortunately, he's in his second go-around with Offensive Coordinator Al Saunders' complicated system.

The best thing Saunders could do for Campbell is to continue to run the ball the way Gibbs loves and the way Saunders did in Kansas City when he had Priest Holmes and Larry Johnson.

With a hopefully healthy Clinton Portis sharing the load with Ladell Betts, and Mike Sellers and Rock Cartwright providing blocking, the running game has a chance to be as productive as it was in 2005, when it was among the best in the league. Portis will be only 26 by season's start, but has managed to play 16 games only twice in his five-year career.

Campbell threw 10 touchdown passes and six interceptions in his first extended play after replacing veteran Mark Brunell, but his completion percentage of 53.1 is an unacceptable drop from Brunell's 62.3.

Always reluctant to trust a young player over a proven veteran, Gibbs is committed to Campbell, but admittedly not yet convinced.

"Last year was tough when you put a quarterback in the middle of the year like that—he hadn't had all the reps with the front-line receivers—so it's a big learning process for him," Gibbs says. "I think he made strides. He's what we want as a person. Now we've got to see if he can step up and make great plays and win ballgames. That's always the hard one. I think he's got real talent. Those quarterbacks, they're kind of hard to analyze when you really look at them because you're not quite sure if they have that competitive spirit. Can they make plays when they have to make them?"

So it will help considerably if Campbell can hand off as much as possible and not have to rely on a passing game and receiving corps that was disappointing in 2006. The Redskins added Carson Palmer's brother, Jordan, in the draft, which did nothing to help Campbell or the offense now.

Wideout Santana Moss is a potential superstar on the order of Carolina's Steve Smith, but needs more help than he got last year from newcomers Antwaan Randle El and Brandon Lloyd. Randle El was productive from the slot, but Lloyd proved difficult to coach and caught only 23 passes, none for touchdowns. Lloyd demonstrated why the 49ers were quick to get rid of him even though he led them in receiving in 2005.

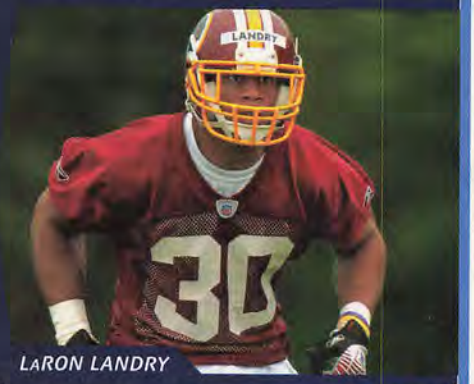
Tight end Chris Cooley led the club last year with 57 receptions and six touchdowns, matching Moss. He's a vital cog in the offensive plans because Saunders saw what tight end Tony Gonzalez meant to his offense in Kansas City when he was coaching there.

After giving up on David Patten and tight end Christian Fauria, there isn't much depth at receiver, with James Thrash, Mike Espy and tight ends Todd Yoder and Tyler Ecker,

MITCHELL LAYTON / GETTY IMAGES

## DRAFT REPORT

With just one pick on the first day, the Redskins took the top defender on most draft boards in free safety **LaRon Landry**. The former LSU star should start opposite Sean Taylor and form one of the league's best safety duos. **Dallas Sartz** and **H.B. Blades** will significantly upgrade the depth at linebacker. Quarterback **Jordan Palmer**, the younger brother of Cincinnati QB Carson Palmer, will likely need a year on the practice squad. Michigan TE **Tyler Ecker** excels as a blocker. Last season's trades for T.J. Duckett and Brandon Lloyd also figure into the final grade.



LARON LANDRY

**GRADE C-**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | Landry, LaRon | S | 6-2 | 205 | LSU |
| 5 | 6 | Sartz, Dallas | LB | 6-5 | 240 | USC |
| 6 | 5 | Blades, H.B. | LB | 6-0 | 240 | Pittsburgh |
| 6 | 31 | Palmer, Jordan | QB | 6-5 | 235 | UTEP |
| 7 | 6 | Ecker, Tyler | TE | 6-6 | 246 | Michigan |

## THE BOOK ON ...

**Santana Moss** *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Remember when Randy Moss was the best receiver named Moss? No more. Man, this guy can make plays. He just scares the heck out of people. Had a little bit of a down year last year compared to 2005, but he was nicked and then they switched to Jason Campbell [at QB], so there's going to be a little transition period. He's too little to be this good. ...

"Great ability to adjust to the ball in the air. His speed and acceleration is one thing; it's his ability to change speed and direction that makes him really special. He can get open and is learning how to work better against zones. He can get knocked off routes and he doesn't seek contact, of course, but the Redskins have to figure out a way to get him the ball 100 times a season, not just 55 like last year."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. *Miami* — SEPT. 9 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 2** @ *Philadelphia* — SEPT. 17 | 8:30 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 3** vs. *New York Giants* — SEPT. 23 | 4:15 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 4** OPEN DATE

**WEEK 5** vs. *Detroit* — OCT. 7 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 6** @ *Green Bay* — OCT. 14 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 7** vs. *Arizona* — OCT. 21 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 8** @ *New England* — OCT. 28 | 4:15 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 9** @ *New York Jets* — NOV. 4 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 10** vs. *Philadelphia* — NOV. 11 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 11** @ *Dallas* — NOV. 18 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 12** @ *Tampa Bay* — NOV. 25 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 13** vs. *Buffalo* — DEC. 2 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 14** vs. *Chicago* — DEC. 6 | 8:15 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 15** @ *New York Giants* — DEC. 16 | 8:15 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 16** @ *Minnesota* — DEC. 23 | 1:00 — W / L SCORE

**WEEK 17** vs. *Dallas* — DEC. 30 | 1:00

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*Will either team be in contention in this season finale? How will young quarterbacks Tony Romo and Jason Campbell be faring by then? Will Jerry Jones be happy with new Coach Wade Phillips? Will it be Redskins Coach Joe Gibbs' farewell?*

W / L SCORE

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | L | 16-19 | Minnesota |
| 09/17 | L | 10-27 | at Dallas |
| 09/24 | W | 31-15 | at Houston |
| 10/01 | W | 36-30 | Jacksonville |
| 10/08 | L | 3-19 | at New York Giants |
| 10/15 | L | 22-25 | Tennessee |
| 10/22 | L | 22-36 | at Indianapolis |
| 11/05 | W | 22-19 | Dallas |
| 11/12 | L | 3-27 | at Philadelphia |
| 11/19 | L | 17-20 | at Tampa Bay |
| 11/26 | W | 17-13 | Carolina |
| 12/03 | L | 14-24 | Atlanta |
| 12/10 | L | 19-21 | Philadelphia |
| 12/17 | W | 16-10 | at New Orleans |
| 12/24 | L | 31-37 | at St. Louis |
| 12/30 | L | 28-34 | New York Giants |

WON 5, LOST 11

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Betts | 245 | 1154 | 4.7 | 26 | 4 |
| Portis | 127 | 523 | 4.1 | 38t | 7 |
| Duckett | 38 | 132 | 3.5 | 19 | 2 |
| Randle El | 19 | 118 | 6.2 | 20 | 0 |
| J. Campbell | 24 | 107 | 4.5 | 15 | 0 |
| Moss | 7 | 82 | 11.7 | 35 | 0 |
| Sellers | 12 | 51 | 4.3 | 13 | 0 |
| Brunell | 13 | 34 | 2.6 | 12 | 0 |
| Cartwright | 5 | 15 | 3.0 | 9 | 0 |
| **Redskins** | 490 | 2216 | 4.5 | 38t | 13 |
| **Opponents** | 492 | 2197 | 4.5 | 69t | 9 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cooley | 57 | 734 | 12.9 | 66t | 6 |
| Moss | 55 | 790 | 14.4 | 68t | 6 |
| Betts | 53 | 445 | 8.4 | 34 | 1 |
| Randle El | 32 | 351 | 11.0 | 34t | 3 |
| Lloyd | 23 | 365 | 15.9 | 52 | 0 |
| Sellers | 18 | 105 | 5.8 | 15 | 1 |
| Portis | 17 | 170 | 10.0 | 74 | 0 |
| Thrash | 12 | 151 | 12.6 | 27 | 1 |
| Fauria | 2 | 17 | 8.5 | 11 | 0 |
| Duckett | 2 | 16 | 8.0 | 19 | 0 |
| Patten | 1 | 25 | 25.0 | 25 | 0 |
| Yoder | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4t | 1 |
| Kozlowski | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| **Redskins** | 274 | 3174 | 11.6 | 74 | 19 |
| **Opponents** | 289 | 3586 | 12.4 | 84t | 30 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brunell | 260 | 162 | 1789 | 8 | 4 |
| J. Campbell | 207 | 110 | 1297 | 10 | 6 |
| Randle El | 3 | 2 | 88 | 1 | 0 |
| **Redskins** | 470 | 274 | 3174 | 19 | 10 |
| **Opponents** | 486 | 289 | 3586 | 30 | 6 |

**SACKS**

A. Carter 6, Daniels 3, Washington 2.5, Evans 2, Marshall 1.5, Archuleta 1, Griffin 1, Holdman 1, Golston 0.5, Montgomery 0.5

REDSKINS 19, OPPONENTS 19

a seventh-round rookie out of the University of Michigan.

The offensive line lost 16-game starting left guard Derrick Dockery in free agency to Buffalo, but added three former starters in the league: Ross Tucker, Jason Fabini and Will Whitticker. Former tackle Todd Wade is expected to take Dockery's place opposite right guard Randy Thomas. Tackles Chris Samuels and Jon Jansen remain solid left and right bookends at tackle, with Casey Rabach at center. Holdovers Mike Pucillo and Taylor Whitley join the three newcomers to provide depth.

Coordinator Gregg Williams' defense slipped badly last season from ninth to 31st, so the Redskins added four players who started for other teams. Usually, the Redskins like to make big offseason-signing splashes. This time, their pursuit of 32-year-old middle linebacker London Fletcher-Baker from Buffalo got the most attention in the early going. They paid him a signing bonus of $10.5 million and hope for a repeat performance of last season when he led the Bills in both tackling and interceptions.

### DID YOU KNOW

Since joining the Redskins in 2004, linebacker Marcus Washington is the team's leading tackler (215). The Redskins, however, are 1-3 when Washington has at least 10 tackles in a game.

Last year Washington was the NFL's worst team in converting turnovers to points, recording only 19 points (one touchdown and four field goals) off 12 turnovers.

In 2006, linebacker London Fletcher-Baker, a free-agent signee, recorded 146 tackles with Buffalo. No Redskins linebacker has had more than 100 tackles in a season since Marvcus Patton (115) in 1998.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**JASON CAMPBELL**
**quarterback**

After starting the last seven games of his second NFL campaign, Campbell now has the advantage of his first complete offseason and training camp as the No. 1 guy. He has weapons around him, which both ease the pressure and add to it.

While Redskin players wonder why that kind of money wasn't available two years ago for productive middle linebacker Antonio Pierce before he bolted for the Giants, Fletcher-Baker is a welcome and necessary addition to a unit that had Lemar Marshall playing out of position.

The hope is for Fletcher-Baker to solidify the middle while strongside starter Marcus Washington returns from hip surgery and last year's top draft choice, Rocky McIntosh, to blossom on the weakside. With Warrick Holdman and Jeff Posey gone, Marshall is the only experienced backup, which is why the Redskins used two of their five draft picks on linebackers.

Southern Cal rookie Dallas Sartz, a fifth-round choice, will compete outside, while sixth-rounder H.B. Blades of Pitt challenges in the middle. In an all-out effort to upgrade, the Redskins were rebuffed in attempts to deal the sixth pick in the draft to Chicago for disgruntled Bears star Lance Briggs.

Up front, the Redskins are counting on getting at least one more healthy season out of left end Phillip Daniels and increased production from last year's addition at right end, Andre Carter. They missed just one start between them but garnered only nine sacks on a team that finished last in sack percentage.

Tackles Cornelius Griffin and Joe Salave'a face a challenge for

### NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 327.7 | 13 | Total Defense | 355.5 | 31 |
| Rushing | 138.5 | 4 | Against Rush | 137.3 | 27 |
| Passing | 189.2 | 21 | Against Pass | 218.2 | 23 |
| Scoring | 307 | 20 | Points Allowed | 376 | 27 |
| Punt Returns | 8.8 | 14 | Interceptions | 6 | 32 |
| Kick Returns | 22.3 | 19 | Sacks | 19 | 32 |
| Red Zone TD % | 50.0 | 15t | Turnover Diff. | -5 | 23t |

**FIRST DOWNS**

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 295 | 123 | 150 | 22 |

**RED ZONE OFFENSE**

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 42 | 185 | 21 | 12 |

**TOUCHDOWNS**

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 19 | 2 | 0 |

RODGER M. WOOD

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Redskins)*

"Their drop to 5-11 last year didn't surprise me. They might win eight games this year. If the kid quarterback [Jason Campbell] develops fast, maybe they can win nine. I know they think they're better than that, but I don't. The bottom dropped out of [Defensive Coordinator] Gregg Williams' defense and Joe Gibbs didn't get the production out of [Offensive Coordinator] Al Saunders' new offense that he had hoped. So they're still a team in progress that keeps switching up key personnel. ...

"If they keep that Brandon Lloyd around much longer, he'll infect the whole team with bad attitude. They need [Clinton] Portis back strong and they were the worst in the league at rushing the passer [last season] and didn't add any pass rushers. They have issues."

playing time inside from second-year man Kedric Golston, with Anthony Montgomery, Demetric Evans, Joe Sykes, Ryan Boschetti and Renaldo Wynn in reserve.

Unable to trade their top draft pick, the Redskins used it on the first defensive player selected within the NFC East, LSU safety LaRon Landry. A pairing with 2004 No. 1 pick Sean Taylor will give the Redskins two of the hardest-hitting safeties in the league.

The Redskins tried to address the safety position last year by overpaying Adam Archuleta, now with Chicago. They also added veteran Troy Vincent, who was released at age 35. This offseason, they re-signed 2005 Washington player Omar Stoutmire from the Saints' roster. They also hope former starter Pierson Prioleau can return from injured reserve. With Stoutmire and Prioleau available, there is no guarantee Landry will start from Day One, but the future is likely to arrive quickly. Reed Doughty and Vernon Fox return as backups.

At cornerback, Shawn Springs is expected to come back healthy to replace departed Kenny Wright opposite Carlos Rogers, but the Redskins added Fred Smoot and David Macklin, who started for Minnesota and Arizona at times last season, respectively, so Springs could get competition and the nickel job should be in capable hands.

Randle El and Cartwright handle the punt and kickoff returns. Placekicker Shaun Suisham replaces John Hall and punter Derrick Frost is back to lead a special-teams unit that was among the best in the league in coverage.

**FINAL GRADE**

**71**

STOCK REPORT

STEADY

## THE COUNT

**25**

Return yards produced from a league-low six interceptions last year, the fewest by a team dating back to 1970.

**66**

The number of plays of 20 or more yards allowed by Washington's defense in 2006. Of those plays, 16 resulted in a touchdown, both NFL highs.

**19**

Number of times Redskin quarterbacks Mark Brunell and Jason Campbell were sacked last season, the second-lowest total in franchise history since the advent of the 16-game schedule. Mark Rypien and Jeff Rutledge were sacked only nine times in 1991.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**London Fletcher-Baker**, MLB (BUF)

*Although he's 32, he doesn't miss games and led the Bills in tackles and interceptions last year.*

- Fred Smoot, CB (MIN)
- Omar Stoutmire, DB (NO)
- David Macklin, CB (ARI)
- Jason Fabini, OT (DAL)
- Will Whitticker, OL (MIA)
- Ross Tucker, OL (NE)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Kenny Wright, DB (CLE)
- T.J. Duckett, RB (DET)
- Adam Archuleta, DB (trade, CHI)
- Jim Molinaro, OT (DAL)
- David Patten, WR (NO)
- Warrick Holdman, LB (DEN)
- Mike Rumph, DB (STL)
- Derrick Dockery, OG (BUF)

## REDSKINS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Bramlet, Casey | QB | 6-4 | 225 | 04/02/1981 | 0 | Wyoming |
| 8 | Brunell, Mark | QB | 6-1 | 217 | 09/17/1970 | 13 | Washington |
| 17 | Campbell, Jason | QB | 6-4 | 230 | 12/31/1981 | 1 | Auburn |
| 15 | Collins, Todd | QB | 6-4 | 228 | 11/05/1971 | 8 | Michigan |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 67 | Albright, Ethan | C | 6-5 | 265 | 05/01/1971 | 12 | North Carolina |
| 75 | Armstrong, Calvin | T | 6-7 | 325 | 03/31/1982 | 0 | Washington State |
| 69 | Fabini, Jason | T | 6-7 | 309 | 08/25/1974 | 9 | Cincinnati |
| 76 | Jansen, Jon | T | 6-6 | 308 | 01/28/1976 | 7 | Michigan |
| 78 | Lefotu, Kili | G | 6-4 | 315 | 11/22/1983 | 0 | Arizona |
| 62 | Pucillo, Mike | G | 6-4 | 311 | 07/14/1979 | 4 | Auburn |
| 61 | Rabach, Casey | C | 6-4 | 301 | 09/24/1977 | 5 | Wisconsin |
| 60 | Samuels, Chris | T | 6-5 | 310 | 07/28/1977 | 7 | Alabama |
| 77 | Thomas, Randy | G | 6-5 | 306 | 01/19/1976 | 8 | Mississippi State |
| 68 | Tucker, Ross | G | 6-4 | 310 | 03/02/1979 | 5 | Princeton |
| 71 | Wade, Todd | T | 6-8 | 317 | 10/30/1976 | 7 | Mississippi |
| 72 | Whitley, Taylor | G | 6-4 | 315 | 02/21/1980 | 2 | Texas A&M |
| 63 | Whitticker, Will | T | 6-5 | 338 | 08/02/1982 | 1 | Michigan State |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 46 | Betts, Ladell | RB | 5-10 | 223 | 08/27/1979 | 5 | Iowa |
| 36 | Broughton, Nehemiah | RB | 5-11 | 250 | 11/04/1982 | 2 | Citadel |
| 31 | Cartwright, Rock | RB | 5-7 | 223 | 12/03/1979 | 5 | Kansas State |
| 26 | Portis, Clinton | RB | 5-11 | 205 | 09/01/1981 | 5 | Miami (FL) |
| 45 | Sellers, Mike | RB | 6-3 | 260 | 07/21/1975 | 7 | Walla Walla CC |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | Bonner, Cedric | WR | 5-11 | 170 | 12/14/1978 | 0 | Tx. A&M-Commerce |
| 47 | Cooley, Chris | TE | 6-3 | 265 | 07/11/1982 | 3 | Utah State |
| 84 | Edwards, Eric | TE | 6-5 | 260 | 08/04/1980 | 2 | LSU |
| 11 | Espy, Mike | WR | 6-0 | 195 | 11/29/1982 | 1 | Mississippi |
| 12 | Harris, Steven | WR | 5-10 | 192 | 11/10/1981 | 0 | Arkansas |
| 18 | Hoag, Ryan | WR | 6-2 | 200 | 11/23/1979 | 0 | Gustavus Adolphus |
| 85 | Lloyd, Brandon | WR | 6-0 | 192 | 07/05/1981 | 4 | Illinois |
| 89 | Moss, Santana | WR | 5-10 | 185 | 06/01/1979 | 6 | Miami (FL) |
| 82 | Randle El, Antwaan | WR | 5-10 | 192 | 08/17/1979 | 5 | Indiana |
| 83 | Thrash, James | WR | 6-0 | 200 | 04/28/1975 | 10 | Missouri Southern St. |
| 87 | Yoder, Todd | TE | 6-4 | 262 | 03/18/1978 | 6 | Vanderbilt |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 79 | Alexander, Lorenzo | DT | 6-3 | 300 | 05/31/1983 | 0 | California |
| 73 | Boschetti, Ryan | DT | 6-4 | 305 | 10/07/1981 | 3 | UCLA |
| 99 | Carter, Andre | DE | 6-4 | 265 | 05/12/1979 | 6 | California |
| 74 | Clauss, Jared | DT | 6-4 | 290 | 04/07/1981 | 2 | Iowa |
| 93 | Daniels, Phillip | DE | 6-5 | 285 | 03/04/1973 | 11 | Georgia |
| 92 | Evans, Demetric | DE | 6-3 | 280 | 09/03/1979 | 5 | Georgia |
| 64 | Golston, Kedric | DT | 6-4 | 292 | 05/30/1983 | 1 | Georgia |
| 91 | Green, Jamaal | DE | 6-2 | 258 | 06/05/1980 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 96 | Griffin, Cornelius | DT | 6-3 | 300 | 12/03/1976 | 7 | Alabama |
| 90 | Manupuna, Vaka | DT | 6-0 | 300 | 06/30/1982 | 0 | Colorado |
| 94 | Montgomery, Anthony | DT | 6-5 | 312 | 03/08/1984 | 1 | Minnesota |
| 95 | Salave'a, Joe | DT | 6-3 | 295 | 03/23/1975 | 8 | Arizona |
| 78 | Sykes, Joe | DE | 6-2 | 266 | 10/22/1982 | 1 | Southern University |
| 97 | Wynn, Renaldo | DE | 6-3 | 292 | 09/03/1974 | 10 | Notre Dame |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 37 | Doughty, Reed | S | 6-1 | 208 | 11/04/1982 | 1 | Northern Colorado |
| 34 | Eubanks, John | CB | 5-10 | 173 | 07/13/1983 | 1 | Southern Miss |
| 39 | Fox, Vernon | S | 5-10 | 197 | 10/09/1979 | 5 | Fresno State |
| 32 | Jimoh, Ade | CB | 6-1 | 190 | 04/18/1980 | 4 | Utah State |
| 38 | Macklin, David | CB | 5-10 | 206 | 07/14/1978 | 7 | Penn State |
| 41 | Pippens, Jerrell | S | 6-2 | 195 | 06/30/1980 | 2 | Nebraska |
| 20 | Prioleau, Pierson | S | 5-11 | 188 | 08/06/1977 | 8 | Virginia Tech |
| 22 | Rogers, Carlos | CB | 5-11 | 199 | 07/02/1981 | 2 | Auburn |
| 27 | Smoot, Fred | CB | 5-11 | 178 | 04/17/1979 | 6 | Mississippi State |
| 24 | Springs, Shawn | CB | 6-0 | 204 | 03/11/1975 | 10 | Ohio State |
| 73 | Stoutmire, Omar | S | 5-11 | 205 | 07/09/1974 | 10 | Fresno State |
| 21 | Taylor, Sean | S | 6-2 | 232 | 04/01/1983 | 3 | Miami (FL) |
| 29 | Torrence, Leigh | CB | 6-0 | 183 | 01/04/1982 | 1 | Stanford |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | Campbell, Khary | LB | 6-3 | 250 | 04/04/1979 | 5 | Bowling Green |
| 59 | Fletcher-Baker, London | LB | 5-10 | 245 | 05/19/1975 | 9 | John Carroll |
| 98 | Marshall, Lemar | LB | 6-2 | 227 | 12/17/1976 | 5 | Michigan State |
| 52 | McIntosh, Rocky | LB | 6-2 | 231 | 11/15/1982 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 59 | Trucks, Anthony | LB | 6-1 | 230 | 12/01/1983 | 0 | Oregon |
| 53 | Washington, Marcus | LB | 6-3 | 250 | 10/17/1977 | 7 | Auburn |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Frost, Derrick | P | 6-4 | 208 | 11/25/1980 | 3 | Northern Iowa |
| 6 | Suisham, Shaun | K | 6-0 | 205 | 12/29/1981 | 2 | Bowling Green |

**JOE GIBBS**, HEAD COACH

**Al Saunders**, assoc. head coach/off.; **Gregg Williams**, asst. head coach/def.; **Joe Bugel**, asst. head coach/off.; **Don Breaux**, off. coord.; **Rennie Simmons**, tight ends; **Earnest Byner**, running backs; **Stan Hixon**, wide receivers; **Bill Lazor**, quarterbacks; **Greg Blache**, def. coord./def. line; **Kirk Olivadotti**, linebackers; **Jerry Gray**, secondary/cornerbacks; **Steve Jackson**, passing game coord./safeties; **Danny Smith**, special teams

# NEW YORK

# 4

**NFC EAST**

**2006 Record: 8-8**
www.giants.com
**GIANTS STADIUM**
Capacity: 80,242 Turf: Artificial
Tickets: 201-935-8222

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Eli Manning |
| FB | Jim Finn |
| RB | Brandon Jacobs |
| LT | David Diehl |
| LG | Rich Seubert |
| C | Shaun O'Hara |
| RG | Chris Snee |
| RT | Kareem McKenzie |
| TE | Jeremy Shockey |
| WR | Amani Toomer |
| WR | Plaxico Burress |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Michael Strahan |
| LT | Fred Robbins |
| RT | Barry Cofield |
| RE | Osi Umenyiora |
| LLB | Mathias Kiwanuka |
| MLB | Antonio Pierce |
| RLB | Kawika Mitchell |
| LCB | Corey Webster |
| RCB | Aaron Ross |
| SS | Gibril Wilson |
| FS | Will Demps |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Jeff Feagles |
| K | Josh Huston |
| PR | Aaron Ross |
| KR | Sinorice Moss |

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 3 |
| Quarterbacks | 3 |
| Running Backs | 2 |
| Receivers | 3 |
| Defensive Line | 3 |
| Linebackers | 1 |
| Secondary | 2 |
| Special Teams | 3 |
| Management | 3 |

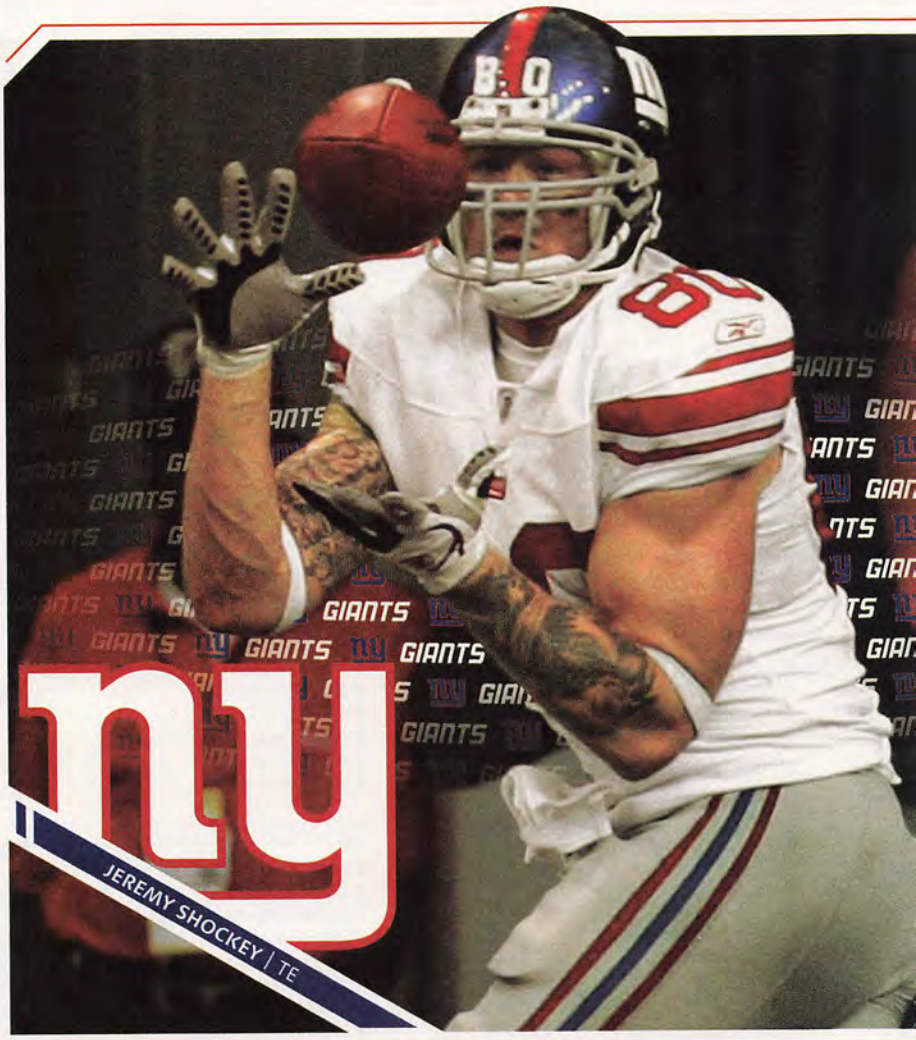
## Looking for a new Barber

The surprising retirement of Tiki Barber has left a hole in the Giants' offense that few in the NFL believe can be successfully patched this season.

Although the Giants made the 2006 playoffs, their 8-8 record provides scant hint of whether they are a team on the rise or decline. Their best player, Tiki Barber, decided not to stick around to find out, retiring at his peak to go into television reporting.

Their longtime general manager, Ernie Accorsi, also retired, but Coach Tom Coughlin escaped fan fury and will return, although he fired his defensive coordinator, Tim Lewis, and promoted Kevin Gilbride from quarterbacks coach to offensive coordinator, leaving the development of quarterback Eli Manning to incoming assistant Chris Palmer.

New General Manager Jerry Reese spent the majority of the free-agent-signing period trying to find volunteers to join up. Manning once again tried to encourage his top two receivers, Jeremy Shockey and Plaxico Burress, to stick around New York for informal offseason workouts. Like many northerners, Shockey preferred Florida.




DALE ZANINE / US PRESSWIRE

## DRAFT REPORT

**Aaron Ross** is a solid corner, but passing on OT Joe Staley in Round One can definitely be questioned, as expectations for quarterback Eli Manning continue to increase and more needed to be done to improve the offensive line. **Steve Smith** fills a need at wide receiver after the team dealt Tim Carter to Cleveland for RB Reuben Droughns. The selection of DT **Jay Alford** could put an end to William Joseph's time in New York. **Zak DeOssie** can play any of the linebacker spots, but could contribute most in his rookie season as a long snapper. **Kevin Boss** is an impressive small college tight end who will provide depth behind Jeremy Shockey. **Adam Koets** was finally added in the sixth round to fill the need at left tackle. **Michael Johnson** can play either safety position and was a solid seventh-round selection. **Ahmad Bradshaw** could see time as a different style running back behind Brandon Jacobs and Droughns. Solid prospects from top to bottom, but the inability to upgrade the offensive line earlier in the draft lowers the final grade.

**GRADE D**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 20 | Ross, Aaron | CB | 6-1 | 192 | Texas |
| 2 | 19 | Smith, Steve | WR | 6-0 | 200 | USC |
| 3 | 18 | Alford, Jay | DT | 6-3 | 304 | Penn State |
| 4 | 17 | DeOssie, Zak | LB | 6-4 | 240 | Brown |
| 5 | 16 | Boss, Kevin | TE | 6-7 | 255 | Western Oregon |
| 6 | 15 | Koets, Adam | T | 6-6 | 294 | Oregon State |
| 7 | 14 | Johnson, Michael | S | 6-3 | 195 | Arizona |
| 7 | 40 | Bradshaw, Ahmad | RB | 5-11 | 192 | Marshall |

Even placekicker Jay Feely bolted for the Sunshine State, rejecting overtures from the Giants in order to sign up with the Miami Dolphins. It was a rare case of a kicker turning the tables and firing his team.

Coughlin was given a one-year extension through 2008, which means he must win in 2007 to stay. In the tough NFC East, that will not be an easy task, especially with two division games on the road at Dallas and Washington in the first three weeks. The Giants could be climbing uphill before October and their emotional coach could be climbing the walls.

Coughlin's often-frantic sideline demeanor is reflected in his team's undisciplined nature and penchant for mistakes and penalties, a connection his bosses either ignore or don't recognize.

The most pressure again will be on Manning, of course, and now that big brother Peyton has won his Super Bowl, the scrutiny will only increase. To the Eli Manning skeptics, it doesn't matter that the Giants had the 25th-ranked defense and the fired Lewis failed to gain the confidence of his players.

Manning's lack of accuracy is the team's biggest worry. His 57.7-percent completion rate in 2006 was by far his best in three years, yet the best quarterbacks (including his brother) are consistently over 60 percent. His improvement is now the charge of Palmer, whose last three challenges have been Tim Couch, David Carr and Drew Bledsoe, although Palmer should get at least some credit for the ascension of Tony Romo in Dallas.

Newly signed veteran Anthony Wright and youngsters Jared Lorenzen and Tim Hasselbeck sit behind Manning, who at least has mastered the first aspect of great quarterbacking: durability. He hasn't missed a snap in two seasons.

Manning's targets could be a concern unless second-year prospect Sinorice Moss develops quickly after an injury-plagued rookie season. After reliable Amani Toomer also got hurt and missed half the season, the Giants' passing attack declined. New York made USC receiver Steve Smith their second pick in April's draft and the expectation is that he will play immediately.

Manning would profit from more offseason work with Shockey and Burress. Backup tight end Visanthe Shiancoe left in free agency. Fifth-round draft pick Kevin Boss of Division II Western Oregon is a developmental replacement.

The Giants traded underachieving third receiver Tim Carter to Cleveland for running back Reuben Droughns, leaving Smith, David Tyree, Michael Jennings and Moss plenty of room for more playing time. Smith has the experience as a possession slot receiver to move in immediately between Toomer and Burress. Manning looked

## THE BOOK ON ... *Eli Manning* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"This is a big year for Manning. He's shown steady but slow improvement his first three years, but he still isn't a 60-percent passer. I don't know if it will help him or not to have Kevin Gilbride now as offensive coordinator and Chris Palmer as his quarterback coach. He's got all the tools, including the temperament to play in New York. But unless he has a breakthrough season, it's likely Tom Coughlin's last [as coach]. I know he tries to get his receivers to work out with him more in the offseason. He just hasn't made that jump yet to where he's a quarterback you win because of. You can win with him, but now without Tiki [Barber] in there, the Giants are going to have to win because of Eli."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1 @ *Dallas***
SEPT. 9 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 2 vs. *Green Bay***
SEPT. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 3 @ *Washington***
SEPT. 23 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 4 vs. *Philadelphia***
SEPT. 30 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 5 vs. *New York Jets***
OCT. 7 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 6 @ *Atlanta***
OCT. 15 | 8:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 7 vs. *San Francisco***
OCT. 21 | 1:00
**MUST-SEE GAME**
*Eli Manning and Alex Smith, two former overall No. 1 draft picks, meet for the first time. Smith was hurt in 2005 when Manning beat the 49ers. If he doesn't do it again, people will talk.*
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 8 @ *Miami (London)***
OCT. 28 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 9** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 10 vs. *Dallas***
NOV. 11 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 11 @ *Detroit***
NOV. 18 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 12 vs. *Minnesota***
NOV. 25 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 13 @ *Chicago***
DEC. 2 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 14 @ *Philadelphia***
DEC. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 15 vs. *Washington***
DEC. 16 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 16 @ *Buffalo***
DEC. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 17 vs. *New England***
DEC. 29 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 21-26 | Indianapolis |
| 09/17 | W | 30-24 | at Philadelphia |
| 09/24 | L | 30-42 | at Seattle |
| 10/08 | W | 19-3 | Washington |
| 10/15 | W | 27-14 | at Atlanta |
| 10/23 | W | 36-22 | at Dallas |
| 10/29 | W | 17-3 | Tampa Bay |
| 11/05 | W | 14-10 | Houston |
| 11/12 | L | 20-38 | Chicago |
| 11/20 | L | 10-26 | at Jacksonville |
| 11/26 | L | 21-24 | at Tennessee |
| 12/03 | L | 20-23 | Dallas |
| 12/10 | W | 27-13 | at Carolina |
| 12/17 | L | 22-36 | Philadelphia |
| 12/24 | L | 7-30 | New Orleans |
| 12/30 | W | 34-28 | at Washington |

**WON 8, LOST 8**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barber | 327 | 1662 | 5.1 | 55t | 5 |
| Jacobs | 96 | 423 | 4.4 | 16 | 9 |
| Morton | 1 | 22 | 22.0 | 22 | 0 |
| Manning | 25 | 21 | 0.8 | 9 | 0 |
| Finn | 2 | 14 | 7.0 | 12 | 0 |
| Jennings | 2 | 12 | 6.0 | 21 | 0 |
| Lorenzen | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Toomer | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Giants** | 455 | 2156 | 4.7 | 55t | 14 |
| **Opponents** | 458 | 1830 | 4.0 | 90t | 19 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shockey | 66 | 623 | 9.4 | 25 | 7 |
| Burress | 63 | 988 | 15.7 | 55t | 10 |
| Barber | 58 | 465 | 8.0 | 28 | 0 |
| Toomer | 32 | 360 | 11.3 | 44 | 3 |
| Carter | 22 | 253 | 11.5 | 27 | 2 |
| Tyree | 19 | 197 | 10.4 | 33 | 2 |
| Shiancoe | 12 | 81 | 6.8 | 16 | 0 |
| Jacobs | 11 | 149 | 13.5 | 43 | 0 |
| Finn | 8 | 54 | 6.8 | 11 | 0 |
| Jennings | 5 | 49 | 9.8 | 20 | 0 |
| Moss | 5 | 25 | 5.0 | 10 | 0 |
| **Giants** | 301 | 3244 | 10.8 | 55t | 24 |
| **Opponents** | 333 | 3830 | 11.5 | 53t | 21 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manning | 522 | 301 | 3244 | 24 | 18 |
| Feagles | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Giants** | 523 | 301 | 3244 | 24 | 18 |
| **Opponents** | 567 | 333 | 3830 | 21 | 17 |

**SACKS**

Umenyiora 6, Robbins 5.5, Kiwanuka 4, Strahan 3, Joseph 2, Short 2, Cofield 1.5, Arrington 1, Awasom 1, Demps 1, Emmons 1, McQuarters 1, Pierce 1, Torbor 1, Webster 1

**GIANTS 32, OPPONENTS 25**

particularly lost without Toomer, who rarely gets hurt but will be 33 at the start of the season.

Droughns joins large-framed holdover Brandon Jacobs as the Giants try to make up for Barber's absence with two backs, neither of whom are accomplished receivers like Barber. If Jacobs and Droughns can combine for anywhere close to Barber's 1,600-yard-plus rushing average over the last three seasons, the Giants will be very happy.

Droughns was a 1,200-yard back for Denver in 2004 and Cleveland in 2005. He should fit well in a time-share situation. Though Jacobs certainly has the size to be a workhorse, he hasn't had the chance to carry even 100 times in a season. The Giants apparently were concerned enough with their backfield outlook that they made a player scouts considered a character risk, 5-11 tailback Ahmad Bradshaw of Marshall, their final draft pick. Bradshaw was dismissed from the University of Virginia football team as a freshman after an underage-drinking arrest and last May was sentenced to two years probation for misdemeanor larceny.

Seven-year veteran Jim Finn will again likely be the blocking back.

After letting injured left tackle Luke Petitgout go in free agency, the Giants plan to line up with David Diehl protecting Manning's backside, although there was trade talk shortly after the draft about acquiring Cleveland's suddenly expendable Kevin Shaffer. Diehl is good at tackle but better at guard. Rich Seubert and Chris Snee are the guards flanking center Shaun O'Hara, with Kareem McKenzie at right tackle.

Guy Whimper and Grey Ruegamer are reserves on the O-line. Since Petitgout was playing well before his injury, his release came as a surprise to teammates. Whimper is a possible backup at left tackle and late draft pick Adam Koets played left tackle at Oregon State.

The return of left end Michael Strahan from a foot injury that cost him seven games in 2006 is key for a defense now coordinated by ex-Eagle Steve Spagnuolo. The Giants would prefer not having to rely so heavily on a 35-year-old defensive end, but Strahan is still good when healthy and the Giants need all the help they can get.

As a rookie, Mathias Kiwanuka made such an impression at defensive end that the Giants are moving him to linebacker to fill a glaring need. Another rookie last season, Barry Cofield, started every game at tackle. Right end Osi Umenyiora missed five games with an injury and backup Justin Tuck finished on injured reserve with Strahan, turning what the Giants thought was a strong

### DID YOU KNOW

The Giants have not made the playoffs in three straight seasons since 1984-86, a run which was capped by their 39-20 victory over Denver in Super Bowl XXI.

Including the playoffs, New York is 20-21 with quarterback Eli Manning starting.

### GIANTS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Frank Gifford** (1952-60, 1962-64)
*Versatility was the name of his game, with seven Pro Bowls as a receiver, runner and defensive back and a team-record 78 combined touchdowns.*

2. **Amani Toomer** (1996-present)
*Giants' all-time leader with 8,157 receiving yards and counting.*

3. **Kyle Rote** (1951-61)
*Sits behind teammate Gifford in receiving yards (4,797), all-purpose touchdowns (52) and post-football TV success.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**BRANDON JACOBS**
running back

Without Tiki Barber, the Giants absolutely need Jacobs to develop fast. The only proof he can handle a full load is his 6-4, 264-pound frame. He can't replace Barber, but needs to step up as much as he can.

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Giants)*

"Hard for me to figure out what they're doing other than marking time until the next coach. I don't see how [Tom] Coughlin survives without Tiki Barber. I just don't see where they got a whole lot better, and they were 8-8. I've got them last in the division. They make too many mistakes in critical situations. Not a very confident team. They always knew they could hang their hat on Barber or maybe Michael Strahan. Now Strahan is getting old and beat-up and somebody else has to step up. Maybe [new General Manager] Jerry Reese sees things I can't see."

JERALD PINKUS / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 325.9 | 14 | Total Defense | 342.4 | 25 |
| Rushing | 134.8 | 7 | Against Rush | 114.4 | 14 |
| Passing | 191.1 | 19 | Against Pass | 228.1 | 28 |
| Scoring | 355 | 11 | Points Allowed | 362 | 24 |
| Punt Returns | 8.7 | 15 | Interceptions | 17 | 13t |
| Kick Returns | 20.1 | 30 | Sacks | 32 | 23t |
| Red Zone TD % | 52.9 | 13 | Turnover Diff. | 0 | 17t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 304 | 120 | 163 | 21 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 51 | 238 | 27 | 17 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | 24 | 0 | 2 |

position into a weakness. Third-year end Adrian Awasom also returns.

Tackles Fred Robbins and Cofield are backed up by William Joseph, Jonas Seawright and Titus Adams, with third-round draft choice Jay Alford joining them.

Switching Kiwanuka to strongside linebacker is the first step in revamping the linebacking corps after the Giants gave up on former starters LaVar Arrington, Carlos Emmons and Brandon Short. Adding free agent Kawika Mitchell from Kansas City is another step. Mitchell played the middle for the Chiefs but is now likely to compete with Gerris Wilkinson for the starting weakside spot, with leading tackler Antonio Pierce holding down the inside, where he was solid last year.

Zak DeOssie, son of former Giants linebacker Steve, was drafted to compete as a strongside backup to Kiwanuka along with Chase Blackburn and Reggie Torbor as the Giants try desperately to shore up a perennial problem area.

Cornerback Corey Webster is hoping the change in coordinators will enable him to challenge for a starting job opposite top draft choice Aaron Ross, who is expected to step in immediately ahead of R.W. McQuarters and Sam Madison. Kevin Dockery returns and E.J. Underwood comes off injured reserve. Safeties Gibril Wilson and Will Demps are backed by Jason Bell and James Butler and seventh-round rookie Michael Johnson.

Not only is Ross expected to start at corner, but his punt-return ability is also needed because the Giants cut return specialist Chad Morton, who tore his ACL in New York's 15th game last year. Coughlin will be looking for volunteers to return kickoffs.

In the kicking game, only inexperienced booters Josh Huston and Marc Hickok remained on the roster after Feely left. The Giants will again rely on 41-year-old Jeff Feagles to punt.

**FINAL GRADE**

**65**

STOCK REPORT: DOWN

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Reuben Droughns**, RB (trade, CLE)

*Brandon Jacobs will need help and Droughns has been workmanlike for Cleveland and Denver.*

- Kawika Mitchell, LB (KC)
- Marcus Bell, NT (DET)
- Michael Stone, DB (HOU)
- Anthony Wright, QB (CIN)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Jay Feely, K (MIA)
- Visanthe Shiancoe, TE (MIN)
- Luke Petitgout, OT (TB)
- Frank Walker, CB (GB)

> "They [New York Giants] said it's definitely going to be a one-two punch. ... Brandon [Jacobs] and me will be kind of a pound-it-out running style, so we'll try to wear down the defenses and work together."

*—offseason acquisition Reuben Droughns on sharing the backfield with Brandon Jacobs*

## THE COUNT

**1,181**

Combined rushing yards from last season for Brandon Jacobs and free-agent signee Reuben Droughns.

**132.5**

Career sacks for defensive end Michael Strahan, who shares the team record with Lawrence Taylor.

**3**

Wins needed by Tom Coughlin to become the seventh active coach in the NFL with 100.

## GIANTS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | Hasselbeck, Tim | QB | 6-1 | 214 | 04/06/1978 | 3 | Boston College |
| 13 | Lorenzen, Jared | QB | 6-4 | 285 | 02/14/1981 | 1 | Kentucky |
| 10 | Manning, Eli | QB | 6-4 | 225 | 01/03/1981 | 3 | Mississippi |
| 2 | Wright, Anthony | QB | 6-1 | 211 | 02/14/1976 | 5 | South Carolina |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 66 | Diehl, David | G | 6-5 | 319 | 09/15/1980 | 4 | Illinois |
| 67 | McKenzie, Kareem | T | 6-6 | 327 | 05/24/1979 | 6 | Penn State |
| 60 | O'Hara, Shaun | C | 6-3 | 303 | 06/23/1977 | 7 | Rutgers |
| 65 | Ruegamer, Grey | G | 6-4 | 299 | 06/11/1976 | 7 | Arizona State |
| 69 | Seubert, Rich | G | 6-3 | 310 | 03/30/1979 | 5 | Western Illinois |
| 76 | Snee, Chris | G | 6-3 | 317 | 01/18/1982 | 3 | Boston College |
| 79 | Whimper, Guy | T | 6-5 | 302 | 05/21/1983 | 1 | East Carolina |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24 | Douglas, Robert | RB | 6-1 | 237 | 07/25/1982 | 0 | Memphis |
| 22 | Droughns, Reuben | RB | 5-11 | 220 | 08/21/1978 | 6 | Oregon |
| 20 | Finn, Jim | RB | 6-0 | 245 | 12/09/1976 | 7 | Pennsylvania |
| 27 | Jacobs, Brandon | RB | 6-4 | 264 | 07/06/1982 | 2 | Southern Illinois |
| 30 | Sims, James | RB | 6-0 | 211 | 02/14/1983 | 1 | Washington |
| 34 | Ward, Derrick | RB | 5-11 | 228 | 08/30/1980 | 3 | Ottawa |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | Burress, Plaxico | WR | 6-5 | 232 | 08/12/1977 | 7 | Michigan State |
| 15 | Jennings, Michael | WR | 5-11 | 181 | 09/07/1979 | 1 | Florida State |
| 84 | Johnson, Darcy | TE | 6-5 | 252 | 02/11/1983 | 1 | UCF |
| 83 | Moss, Sinorice | WR | 5-8 | 185 | 12/28/1983 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 80 | Shockey, Jeremy | TE | 6-5 | 251 | 08/18/1980 | 5 | Miami (FL) |
| 81 | Toomer, Amani | WR | 6-3 | 203 | 09/08/1974 | 11 | Michigan |
| 85 | Tyree, David | WR | 6-0 | 206 | 01/03/1980 | 4 | Syracuse |
| 87 | Watts, Darius | WR | 6-2 | 190 | 12/19/1981 | 2 | Marshall |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 93 | Adams, Titus | DT | 6-4 | 305 | 01/28/1983 | 0 | Nebraska |
| 95 | Awasom, Adrian | DE | 6-5 | 280 | 10/25/1983 | 2 | North Texas |
| 99 | Bell, Marcus | DT | 6-2 | 325 | 06/01/1979 | 6 | Memphis |
| 96 | Cofield, Barry | DT | 6-4 | 306 | 03/19/1984 | 1 | Northwestern |
| 94 | Joseph, William | DT | 6-5 | 308 | 09/03/1979 | 4 | Miami (FL) |
| 90 | Kuehl, Ryan | DT | 6-5 | 276 | 01/18/1972 | 9 | Virginia |
| 98 | Robbins, Fred | DT | 6-4 | 317 | 03/25/1977 | 7 | Wake Forest |
| 75 | Seawright, Jonas | DT | 6-6 | 335 | 04/12/1982 | 1 | North Carolina |
| 92 | Strahan, Michael | DE | 6-5 | 255 | 11/21/1971 | 14 | Texas Southern |
| 91 | Tuck, Justin | DE | 6-5 | 274 | 03/29/1983 | 2 | Notre Dame |
| 72 | Umenyiora, Osi | DE | 6-3 | 261 | 11/16/1981 | 4 | Troy |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 33 | Bell, Jason | CB | 6-0 | 196 | 04/01/1978 | 6 | UCLA |
| 37 | Butler, James | S | 6-3 | 219 | 09/07/1982 | 2 | Georgia Tech |
| 47 | Demps, Will | S | 6-0 | 208 | 11/07/1979 | 5 | San Diego State |
| 35 | Dockery, Kevin | CB | 5-8 | 188 | 01/08/1984 | 1 | Mississippi State |
| 29 | Madison, Sam | CB | 5-11 | 180 | 04/23/1974 | 10 | Louisville |
| 25 | McQuarters, R.W. | CB | 5-10 | 194 | 12/21/1976 | 9 | Oklahoma State |
| 26 | Stone, Michael | S | 6-0 | 201 | 02/13/1978 | 5 | Memphis |
| 23 | Webster, Corey | CB | 6-0 | 202 | 03/02/1982 | 2 | LSU |
| 28 | Wilson, Gibril | S | 6-0 | 209 | 11/12/1981 | 3 | Tennessee |

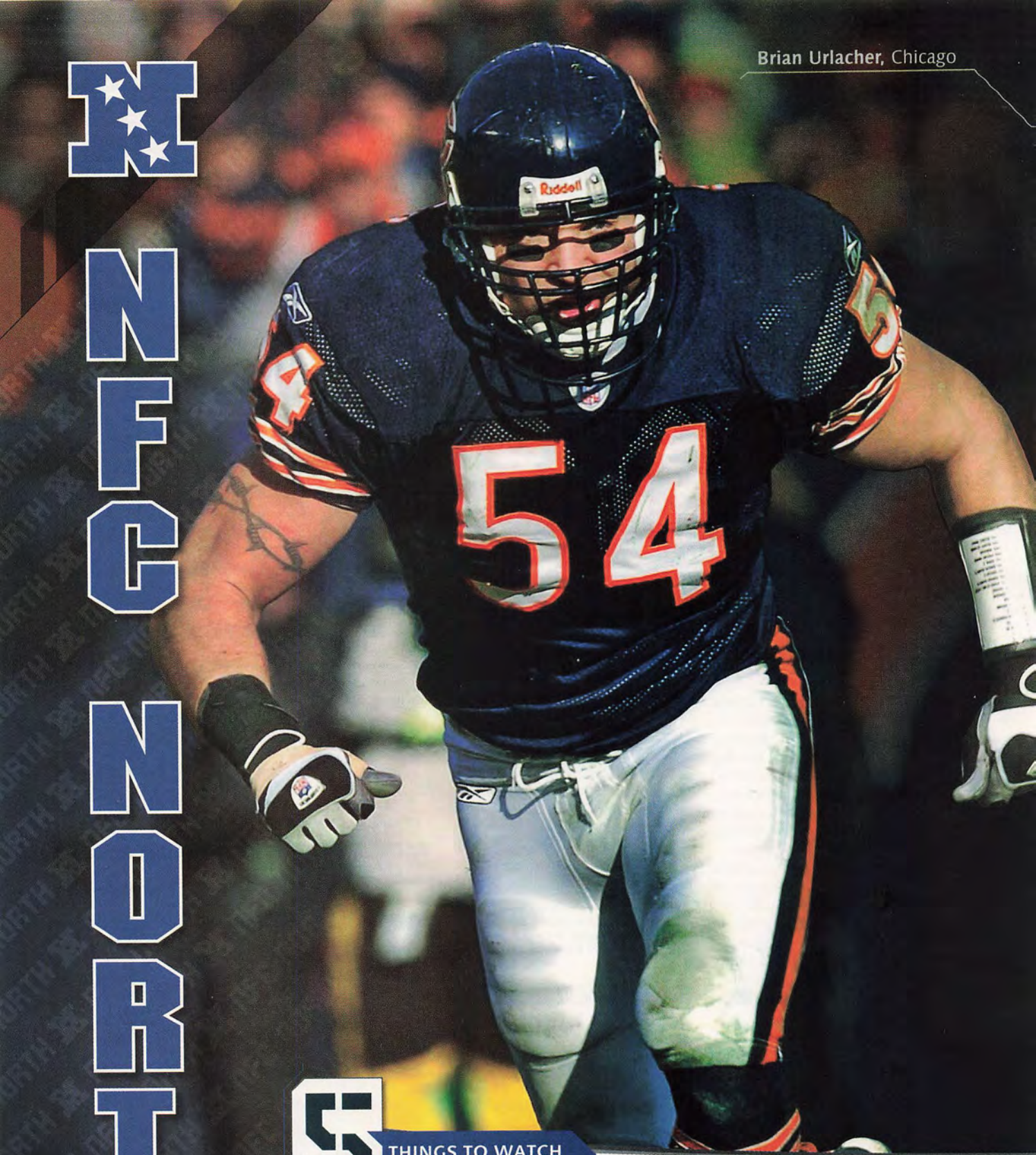
| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 57 | Blackburn, Chase | LB | 6-3 | 247 | 06/10/1983 | 2 | Akron |
| 52 | Davis, James | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 04/26/1979 | 3 | West Virginia |
| 55 | Mitchell, Kawika | LB | 6-1 | 253 | 10/10/1979 | 4 | South Florida |
| 97 | Kiwanuka, Mathias | LB | 6-5 | 265 | 03/08/1983 | 1 | Boston College |
| 58 | Pierce, Antonio | LB | 6-1 | 238 | 10/26/1978 | 6 | Arizona |
| 48 | Smith, Tyson | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 10/09/1981 | 1 | Iowa State |
| 53 | Torbor, Reggie | LB | 6-2 | 250 | 01/25/1981 | 3 | Auburn |
| 59 | Wilkinson, Gerris | LB | 6-3 | 231 | 04/05/1983 | 1 | Georgia Tech |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18 | Feagles, Jeff | P | 6-1 | 215 | 03/07/1966 | 19 | Miami (FL) |
| 3 | Hickok, Marc | K | 6-0 | 182 | 08/14/1980 | 0 | Connecticut |
| 3 | Huston, Josh | K | 6-1 | 200 | 02/28/1982 | 1 | Ohio State |

**TOM COUGHLIN**, HEAD COACH

**Kevin Gilbride**, off. coord.; **Dave DeGuglielmo**, asst. off. line; **Pat Flaherty**, off. line; **Jerald Ingram**, running backs; **Mike Pope**, tight ends; **Mike Sullivan**, wide receivers; **Chris Palmer**, quarterbacks; **Steve Spagnuolo**, def. coord.; **Peter Giunta**, secondary/corners; **David Merritt**, secondary/safeties; **Bill Sheridan**, linebackers; **Mike Waufle**, def. line; **Tom Quinn**, special teams coord.; **Thomas McGaughey**, asst. special teams

# NFC NORTH




## 5 THINGS TO WATCH

1. Vikings Coach Brad Childress staking his professional reputation on the rapid development of young quarterback Tarvaris Jackson. Expect Jackson to hand off plenty to Adrian Peterson and Chester Taylor because the most experienced receiver on the roster is Bobby Wade.

2. How Brett Favre deals with the barrier of age 38 that has stopped so many quarterbacks in their tracks, including John Elway, Dan Marino, Joe Montana, and Steve Young. Maybe Favre is the new Warren Moon. Nothing has stopped Favre yet, but he turns 38 in October.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

1 BEARS | 144

2 PACKERS | 148

3 LIONS | 152

4 VIKINGS | 156

## Improving rivals eager to take advantage of any signs of erosion that Bears are likely to show

By Don Pierson, *Chicago Tribune*

Like the Seattle Seahawks before them, the Chicago Bears look like they have a bad-news, good-news season ahead.

The bad news is Super Bowl losers usually have a rough time recovering from the disappointment. The 2006 Seahawks became the first Super Bowl runners-up to make the playoffs the following season since the 2000 Tennessee Titans.

The good news is the Bears play in a competitively challenged division, just like the Seahawks. The Seahawks finished only 9-7 as they tried to bounce back from their Super Bowl loss, yet nobody in the NFC West could catch them.

The Bears won the NFC North by five games, the widest margin for a division champ in the NFC. When the Green Bay Packers salvaged an 8-8 season by beating the 13-3 Bears in the finale, Bears quarterback Rex Grossman admitted his mind was wandering. The only surprise was how harshly Grossman was criticized for mentioning the obvious.

Unless the Bears allow their minds to wander in September and October as well as December, they should again prevail in a division that is having trouble catching up. Chicago's special teams alone are so superior (thanks mainly to sensational return specialist Devin Hester) that they could again make the difference.

There is optimism, to be sure. For starters, the division landed two of the highest-rated players in the draft when Georgia Tech receiver Calvin Johnson went to Detroit and Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson was chosen by Minnesota.

Detroit quarterback Jon Kitna has predicted there's no reason his Lions can't win 10 games. Had they won more than six in any of the last six seasons, people might listen more attentively.

The Packers think their defense is on the verge of a real breakthrough, while the Vikings had the eighth-best defense in the league and was tops in stuffing the run.

Unlike last season, when the Bears had the easiest schedule in the league, the road doesn't look as inviting, starting with a trip to San Diego. Last year, the Bears got to open against the Packers, Lions and Vikings in the first three weeks as each rival was adjusting to a new head coach.

This year, Green Bay's Mike McCarthy, Detroit's Rod Marinelli and Minnesota's Brad Childress can chase Chicago's Lovie Smith with more confidence that their teams will understand what they are trying to accomplish. It would be unusual if at least one of them doesn't have a big second season, or at least a winning one.

So the Bears aren't quite the heavy favorites they were a year ago. There are more tangible signs of erosion than just the mental letdown so many Super Bowl losers fight. They traded away their most consistent and productive offensive player, running back Thomas Jones, and are relying on unproven former first-round draft choice Cedric Benson. They believe their No. 1 draft choice, tight end Greg Olsen, can provide instant help for the passing attack, especially down the deep middle where the division's Tampa-2 defenses are vulnerable.

Blessed with two Pro Bowl linebackers in Brian Urlacher and Lance Briggs, the Bears know one of them is unhappy with his contract. The Bears are just happy it isn't Urlacher, who has expressed support for his teammate's vow to stay away from training camp and beyond.

Then there's Grossman, whose Super Bowl performance did absolutely nothing to chase away skeptics. While the Bears argue that his inconsistency all year was typical of a quarterback in his first full season, doubters worry that it reveals serious flaws. They also know that only a handful of quarterbacks ever have come back to win a Super Bowl after losing one. The last was John Elway.

The Packers would like Brett Favre to get to another Super Bowl before he retires, which is expected to happen sometime this decade. Last year, Packer fans worried about the line in front of him. This year, they worry about the lack of proven skill players around him.

Without departed sidekick Ahman Green to run the ball and set up Favre's play-action passing, the Packers are challenged to assemble another potent offense around the man who remains the best quarterback in the division, even as he turns 38. Last year, the Packers' offense gained more yards than any other division rival, but scored only the third-most points.

The Lions believe they can win with Marinelli, a step that may have more significance than anyone might think. Beaten down for too many years to count, Detroit needs mental rehabilitation at least as much as physical retooling.

The Vikings are still recovering from their decisions to unload Randy Moss and Daunte Culpepper. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but it would be better if they could find players who pass and catch as consistently well. Although the Vikings have strengths, it's hard to compete without passing and catching.

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

**3** Will Minnesota's Adrian Peterson or Detroit's Calvin Johnson be Offensive Rookie of the Year? Can either of arguably the best two NFL-ready players in the draft help their new teams to winning seasons? Both teams will be disappointed if they don't.

**4** Rex Grossman trying to convince Coach Lovie Smith to stick with him. Grossman could go 16-0 and not have all the fans convinced until he comes up big in a playoff game. Super Bowl losers have tough careers ahead. Grossman looked as if he was getting tired of the critics during the Super Bowl.

**5** Whether Lions President Matt Millen can continue to survive in Detroit if his team doesn't have a winning season. Millen is convinced the Lions will have one of the most dynamic offenses in the league. But will it be enough to win nine games?

# CHICAGO

**NFC NORTH**

**2006 Record: 13-3**
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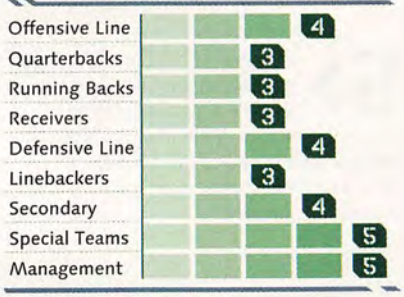
**SOLDIER FIELD**
Capacity: 61,500 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 847-615-2327

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Rex Grossman |
| FB | Jason McKie |
| RB | Cedric Benson |
| LT | John Tait |
| LG | Ruben Brown |
| C | Olin Kreutz |
| RG | Roberto Garza |
| RT | Fred Miller |
| TE | Greg Olsen |
| WR | Muhsin Muhammad |
| WR | Bernard Berrian |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Adewale Ogunleye |
| LT | Tommie Harris |
| RT | Dusty Dvoracek |
| RE | Alex Brown |
| LLB | Hunter Hillenmeyer |
| MLB | Brian Urlacher |
| RLB | Michael Okwo |
| LCB | Charles Tillman |
| RCB | Nathan Vasher |
| SS | Adam Archuleta |
| FS | Danieal Manning |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Brad Maynard |
| K | Robbie Gould |
| PR | Devin Hester |
| KR | Devin Hester |

## POWER RATINGS




## Bear necessity

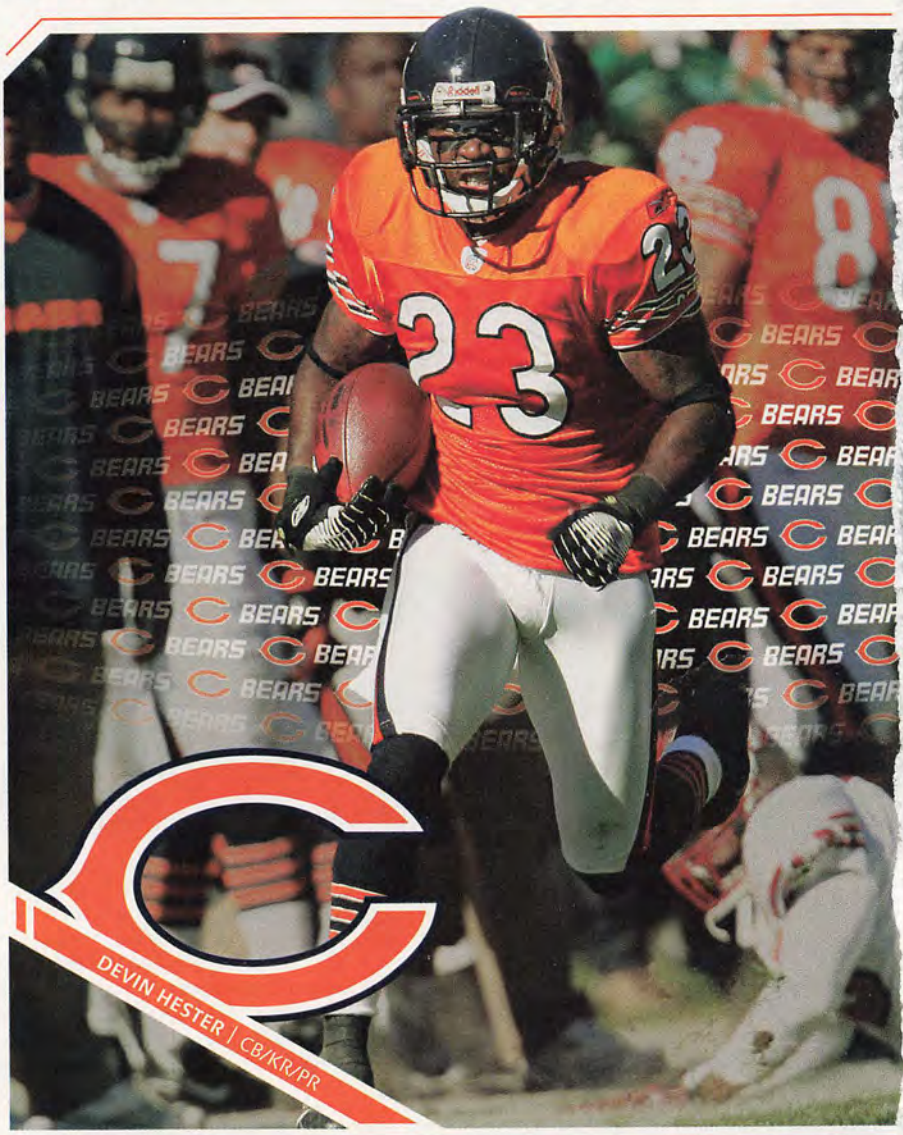
Consistent quarterback play from Grossman seems to be the only thing keeping Chicago from another Super Bowl trip.

Losing a Super Bowl is so devastating that the last team to lose and later return was the 1996 New England Patriots. The Bears intend to make their own history, of course. Coach Lovie Smith always looks ahead. He will remind you that his team has improved from 5-11 to 11-5 to 13-3.

"We have made progress every year and that's what we plan to keep doing," Smith says. "We haven't reached our goal yet. Each year we take another step."

With only one step remaining, the Bears have narrowed their possibilities. Anything less than a Super Bowl win is treading water, which is why this season will be so difficult.

Quarterback Rex Grossman, for example, could lead the Bears to a 16-0 regular-season, yet skeptics would wonder whether he can win the Big One. They would wonder whether Grossman would still throw the Big Interception with a chance to win a Super Bowl. It's an overwhelming assignment.




DEHOOG / TOM DIPACE PHOTOGRAPHY

## DRAFT REPORT

For years the Bears have been searching for a tight end and **Greg Olsen** could finally fill the need. **Dan Bazuin** was a bit of a surprise in Round Two considering Chicago already has Adewale Ogunleye, Alex Brown and Mark Anderson at defensive end. **Garrett Wolfe** was even more of a reach in the third round. Although Wolfe put up big numbers in the MAC, the Huskies' scatback lacks size to break any tackles and has no experience in the return game. Undersized but athletic LB **Michael Okwo** could be groomed as the eventual replacement for the unhappy Lance Briggs. **Josh Beekman** will be groomed to replace guard Ruben Brown. **Kevin Payne**, **Corey Graham** and **Trumaine McBride** will compete for backup spots in the secondary. **Aaron Brant** was an underrated offensive lineman who could be the reserve at right tackle next season. Adding to the grade is a third-round pick in 2008 that was acquired from San Diego.

**GRADE C+**

But the Bears definitely have some things going for them. First, they play in the NFC, where there are no obvious super teams on the horizon. Next, Chicago competes in the North Division of the NFC, where there is no overwhelming competition.

The main impediment looks to be the schedule. Last year, the Bears benefited from playing the weakest slate in the NFL and had the further advantage of starting against the three division rivals, each of them with new head coaches.

This year, they open at San Diego, followed by home games against Kansas City and Dallas—three straight 2006 playoff teams. At least San Diego and Dallas are also transitioning to new coaches.

For Grossman, the challenge is to iron out the dramatic ups and downs. While enjoying the highs of seven games with plus-100 passer ratings, he also experienced big-time lows, including a 0.0 rating in the regular-season finale against Green Bay when Grossman admitted he wasn't focused.

Smith argues that 2006 was the equivalent of Grossman's rookie year because he had failed to go beyond three starts in three previous seasons. Smith thought 13-3 was outstanding for a rookie, which also leaves little room for improvement.

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 31 | Olsen, Greg | TE | 6-4 | 252 | Miami (FL) |
| 2 | 30 | Bazuin, Dan | DE | 6-3 | 272 | Central Michigan |
| 3 | 30 | Wolfe, Garrett | RB | 5-7 | 177 | Northern Illinois |
| 3 | 31 | Okwo, Michael | LB | 6-0 | 220 | Stanford |
| 4 | 31 | Beekman, Josh | G | 6-2 | 325 | Boston College |
| 5 | 30 | Payne, Kevin | S | 6-1 | 220 | Louisiana-Monroe |
| 5 | 31 | Graham, Corey | CB | 6-0 | 190 | New Hampshire |
| 7 | 11 | McBride, Trumaine | CB | 5-10 | 170 | Mississippi |
| 7 | 31 | Brant, Aaron | T | 6-7 | 320 | Iowa State |

The presence of enticing veteran Brian Griese provides the Bears with a sense of relief and the fans a sense of possibility that could make Grossman nervous. If Grossman doesn't start out awfully fast, there will be pressure to at least give Griese a shot.

The Bears fancy themselves as a running team, setting things up for Smith's defense to take away the ball and score. But trading away 1,200-yard rusher Thomas Jones to the Jets is a gamble, leaving the all-important running game to unproven Cedric Benson.

Although Benson showed signs of his potential while sharing time with Jones, he must follow up with the kind of durability and consistency that Jones provided in order for the Bears to remain effective. Adrian Peterson—the Adrian Peterson who went to Georgia Southern and has been a Bears backup for five years—must step up and spell Benson the way Benson spelled Jones. Fullback Jason McKie will be pushed by second-year prospect J.D. Runnels. Productive little Garrett Wolfe was drafted as a third-down specialist.

### THE BOOK ON ... Rex Grossman *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"The more I see of him, the more I wonder whether he's athletic enough. Although he's got pocket awareness, he just doesn't seem quick enough or instinctive enough to slide or step up and make things happen. When he can step into his throws, he's accurate. He threw some uncanny shots downfield last year. But when things break down, he just doesn't create like he should. Surprising arm strength and a quick release enable him to fit throws into tight spots, but it also encourages him to take too many chances. He must stay under control and learn to check down better, but his lack of height and footspeed might limit him."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1 @ San Diego** — SEPT. 9 | 4:15

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*The Bears and Chargers both think they're Super Bowl teams. The Bears get a shot at their former defensive coordinator, Ron Rivera, now linebackers coach for the Chargers. Think he'll send Shawne Merriman after Rex Grossman?*

W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 2 vs. Kansas City** — SEPT. 16 | 4:15 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 3 vs. Dallas** — SEPT. 23 | 8:15 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 4 @ Detroit** — SEPT. 30 | 1:00 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 5 @ Green Bay** — OCT. 7 | 8:15 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 6 vs. Minnesota** — OCT. 14 | 1:00 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 7 @ Philadelphia** — OCT. 21 | 4:15 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 8 vs. Detroit** — OCT. 28 | 1:00 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 9 OPEN DATE**

**WEEK 10 @ Oakland** — NOV. 11 | 4:15 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 11 @ Seattle** — NOV. 18 | 8:15 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 12 vs. Denver** — NOV. 25 | 1:00 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 13 vs. New York Giants** — DEC. 2 | 4:15 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 14 @ Washington** — DEC. 6 | 8:15 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 15 @ Minnesota** — DEC. 17 | 8:30 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 16 vs. Green Bay** — DEC. 23 | 1:00 — W SCORE ▼ L

**WEEK 17 vs. New Orleans** — DEC. 30 | 1:00 — W SCORE ▼ L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 26-0 | at Green Bay |
| 09/17 | W | 34-7 | Detroit |
| 09/24 | W | 19-16 | at Minnesota |
| 10/01 | W | 37-6 | Seattle |
| 10/08 | W | 40-7 | Buffalo |
| 10/16 | W | 24-23 | at Arizona |
| 10/29 | W | 41-10 | San Francisco |
| 11/05 | L | 13-31 | Miami |
| 11/12 | W | 38-20 | at New York Giants |
| 11/19 | W | 10-0 | at New York Jets |
| 11/26 | L | 13-17 | at New England |
| 12/03 | W | 23-13 | Minnesota |
| 12/11 | W | 42-27 | at St. Louis |
| 12/17 | W | 34-31 | Tampa Bay |
| 12/24 | W | 26-21 | at Detroit |
| 12/31 | L | 7-26 | Green Bay |

**WON 13, LOST 3**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jones | 296 | 1210 | 4.1 | 30t | 6 |
| Benson | 157 | 647 | 4.1 | 30 | 6 |
| Peterson | 10 | 41 | 4.1 | 11 | 2 |
| McKie | 8 | 18 | 2.3 | 7 | 0 |
| Berrian | 2 | 5 | 2.5 | 5 | 0 |
| Grossman | 24 | 2 | 0.1 | 22 | 0 |
| Griese | 6 | -5 | -0.8 | 0 | 0 |
| **Bears** | 503 | 1918 | 3.8 | 30t | 14 |
| **Opponents** | 402 | 1590 | 4.0 | 53 | 7 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Muhammad | 60 | 863 | 14.4 | 40 | 5 |
| Berrian | 51 | 775 | 15.2 | 62 | 6 |
| Clark | 45 | 626 | 13.9 | 33 | 6 |
| Jones | 36 | 154 | 4.3 | 21 | 0 |
| McKie | 25 | 162 | 6.5 | 26 | 0 |
| Davis | 22 | 303 | 13.8 | 31 | 2 |
| Bradley | 14 | 282 | 20.1 | 75t | 3 |
| Benson | 8 | 54 | 6.8 | 22 | 0 |
| Peterson | 6 | 88 | 14.7 | 37 | 0 |
| Gilmore | 6 | 38 | 6.3 | 18 | 2 |
| Gage | 4 | 68 | 17.0 | 34 | 0 |
| Reid | 4 | 37 | 9.3 | 19 | 0 |
| Grossman | 1 | -4 | -4.0 | -4 | 0 |
| **Bears** | 282 | 3446 | 12.2 | 75t | 24 |
| **Opponents** | 328 | 3388 | 10.3 | 64t | 18 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grossman | 480 | 262 | 3193 | 23 | 20 |
| Griese | 32 | 18 | 220 | 1 | 2 |
| Maynard | 1 | 1 | 37 | 0 | 0 |
| Jones | 1 | 1 | -4 | 0 | 0 |
| **Bears** | 514 | 282 | 3446 | 24 | 22 |
| **Opponents** | 581 | 328 | 3388 | 18 | 24 |

**SACKS**

Anderson 12, A. Brown 7, Ogunleye 6.5, T. Harris 5, T. Johnson 3.5, Boone 2, R. Manning 2, Briggs 1, Worrell 1

**BEARS 40, OPPONENTS 25**

Chicago ranked higher in passing than rushing—14th to 15th—so it is important for Grossman to be more than a caretaker. The development of Bernard Berrian as a bona fide deep threat allowed Grossman to keep defenses honest. Muhsin Muhammad remains the go-to possession receiver and the Bears are still hoping Mark Bradley can stay healthy enough to emerge as a third receiver along with Rashied Davis.

The addition of highly rated tight end Greg Olsen in the draft gives the Bears a deep threat geared to beat Cover-2 defenses down the middle of the field. Holdover Desmond Clark caught 45 passes last year, so the team hasn't ignored the position.

The offensive line of tackles John Tait and Fred Miller, guards Ruben Brown and Roberto Garza and center Olin Kreutz started all but two games last year. They remain intact as the foundation of the offense, but only Garza is younger than 30 now. So it's optimistic to expect the unit to escape injury for much longer. Kreutz and Brown were Pro Bowlers and Tait played at that level.

Despite the success of the defense, Smith let coordinator Ron Rivera go and promoted Bob Babich from linebacker coach, figuring he knew Babich better and that Rivera had maxed-out the unit's capability. It was a bold move, indicative of Smith's growing control of his own destiny.

Smith is buoyed by the knowledge that his team made the Super Bowl without one of its best defensive players, tackle Tommie Harris, who is recovering from a hamstring injury. Since active defensive tackles are the key to Smith's Tampa-2 scheme, the return of Harris is critical, especially with the fate of sidekick Tank Johnson unknown after Johnson was jailed for violation of probation for a gun-possession offense.

The Bears are counting on last year's third-round draft pick, Dusty Dvoracek, to come off injured reserve and join former Oklahoma teammate Harris on an interior that lost Alfonso Boone but is also counting on Antonio Garay if Johnson isn't available. Quick Anthony Adams is expected to be a better fit in Chicago than he was in San Francisco.

### DID YOU KNOW

Rex Grossman became the first Bears quarterback to start all 16 games in a season since Erik Kramer did so in 1995.

With his 92-yard kickoff return in Chicago's 29-17 loss to Indianapolis in Super Bowl XLI, All-Pro Devin Hester became the first player in NFL history to score on the opening kickoff of the Super Bowl.

In the Bears' 24-23 victory over Arizona Oct. 17, Chicago became the first team to come back from a 20-point deficit without scoring an offensive touchdown.

### BEARS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Harlon Hill** (1954-61)
*Hill went to the Pro Bowl in each of his first three years, grabbing 134 receptions for 3,061 yards and 32 touchdowns along with Rookie-of-the-Year and MVP honors.*

2. **Ken Kavanaugh** (1940-41, 45-50)
*With 22.4 yards per catch, Kavanaugh turned 162 receptions into 3,626 yards and a team-record 50 touchdowns.*

3. **Johnny Morris** (1958-67)
*Morris is tops on the Bears' all-time list with 5,059 receiving yards and second to Walter Payton with 356 catches.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**CEDRIC BENSON**
running back

With Thomas Jones traded to the Jets after back-to-back 1,200-yard seasons, the Bears need former first-round pick Benson to reach his potential. In three years, he has yet to prove much, but that didn't stop the Bears from pulling the trigger on Jones and giving Benson the ball.

At ends, starters Alex Brown and Adewale Ogunleye are ably backed by Mark Anderson and Israel Idonije as well as rookie Dan Bazuin. Anderson led the team with 12 sacks as a rookie, with Brown adding seven and Ogunleye

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Bears)*

"It's nice to have the luxury of stability. [General Manager] Jerry Angelo and Coach Lovie Smith both got new contracts, so Angelo can play hardball with Pro Bowl linebacker Lance Briggs and trade leading rusher Thomas Jones for next to nothing and not worry about ramifications. Smith can fire his defensive coordinator, Ron Rivera, and stick with a shaky quarterback as long as he wants. Obviously, they think it's going to pay dividends. ...

"Cedric Benson has to step up. They're about to run out of luck on the offensive line. They're lucky they play in that division because they're still ahead, but I don't know if they've improved enough to be odds-on favorites for the Super Bowl."

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 324.9 | 15 | Total Defense | 294.1 | 5 |
| Rushing | 119.9 | 15 | Against Rush | 99.4 | 6 |
| Passing | 205.1 | 14 | Against Pass | 194.8 | 11 |
| Scoring | 427 | 2t | Points Allowed | 255 | 3 |
| Punt Returns | 12.1 | 2 | Interceptions | 24 | 2 |
| Kick Returns | 23.3 | 9 | Sacks | 40 | 8t |
| Red Zone TD % | 48.0 | 18 | Turnover Diff. | +8 | 4t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 300 | 103 | 161 | 36 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | 222 | 24 | 18 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | 24 | 6 | 3 |

6.5. Smith's defense is predicated on getting pressure from the front four without blitzing.

With Pro Bowl linebackers Brian Urlacher and Lance Briggs finishing one-two in tackles and both still in their prime, the Bears would appear to be set. But applying the franchise tag to Briggs backfired and he has publicly vowed to sit out, so the Bears drafted Michael Okwo. Hunter Hillenmeyer is a good two-down player at strongside linebacker, but Leon Joe, Rod Wilson, Jamar Williams and Darrell McClover are untested backups.

Cornerback is a solid area with starters Charles Tillman and Nathan Vasher and nickel back Ricky Manning Jr., whose five interceptions matched Tillman for the team lead. Devin Hester wants to contribute more at corner-back, but was so spectacular as a kick-return specialist that Smith is trying to convince him to play receiver, too. Rookies Corey Graham and Trumaine McBride join Dante Wesley as reserves at corner.

The Bears lost backup safeties Todd Johnson and Cameron Worrell in free agency, so they traded for Adam Archuleta and can only hope Mike Brown and Brandon McGowan will come off injured reserve to contribute alongside second-year free safety Danieal Manning. Chris Harris has started at strong and free. Brown's presence would be an unexpected plus. Second-year men Tyler Everett and Nick Turnbull and rookie Kevin Payne are also in the mix.

Thanks a lot to the spectacular Hester, who set a record with an amazing six touchdown returns, the Bears boasted the best special teams in the league. Kicker Robbie Gould set a franchise record with 32 field goals and joined Hester and cover specialist Brendon Ayanbadejo at the Pro Bowl. Veteran Brad Maynard continued his better-than-average punting.

**FINAL GRADE** 88

**STOCK REPORT** DOWN

### KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Adam Archuleta,** DB (trade, WAS)

*Lovie Smith coached him in St. Louis, but the Redskins outbid the Bears for Archuleta in free agency last year only to discover he didn't fit. So Chicago traded for him.*

Anthony Adams, DT (SF)

### KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Cameron Worrell, S (MIA)
- Thomas Jones, RB (trade, NYJ)
- Todd Johnson, S (STL)
- Alfonso Boone, DT (KC)
- Justin Gage, WR (TEN)

> "I'm very excited. I just feel great about it. I think it's a perfect fit. It's where I belong. I'm looking forward to getting back to playing good football and playing like I should."
>
> *—offseason acquisition Adam Archuleta on joining the Bears*

### THE COUNT

**1.3**

The passer rating of Rex Grossman in Chicago's 23-13 win against Minnesota on Dec. 3 last season. It was the lowest rating by a winning quarterback since 1989, when Pat Ryan of the New York Jets recorded a passer rating of 1.1 in a 20-17 win over San Diego.

**26.7**

Points averaged by Chicago last year, 10.4 more than it averaged in 2005.

**201**

Total possessions by the Bears in the NFL, the most in the NFL.

## BEARS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | Griese, Brian | QB | 6-3 | 214 | 03/18/1975 | 9 | Michigan |
| 8 | Grossman, Rex | QB | 6-1 | 217 | 08/23/1980 | 4 | Florida |
| 9 | O'Sullivan, J.T. | QB | 6-2 | 227 | 08/25/1979 | 1 | UC-Davis |
| 18 | Orton, Kyle | QB | 6-4 | 223 | 11/14/1982 | 1 | Purdue |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 74 | Brown, Ruben | G | 6-3 | 300 | 02/13/1972 | 12 | Pittsburgh |
| 63 | Garza, Roberto | G | 6-2 | 300 | 03/26/1979 | 6 | Texas A&M-Kingsville |
| 57 | Kreutz, Olin | C | 6-2 | 292 | 06/09/1977 | 9 | Washington |
| 75 | LeVoir, Mark | T | 6-7 | 310 | 07/29/1982 | 0 | Notre Dame |
| 65 | Mannelly, Patrick | T | 6-5 | 265 | 04/18/1975 | 9 | Duke |
| 60 | Metcalf, Terrence | G | 6-3 | 318 | 01/28/1978 | 5 | Mississippi |
| 69 | Miller, Fred | T | 6-7 | 320 | 02/06/1973 | 11 | Baylor |
| 68 | Oakley, Anthony | G | 6-4 | 295 | 08/16/1981 | 0 | Western Kentucky |
| 64 | Reed, Tyler | G | 6-4 | 307 | 10/06/1982 | 0 | Penn State |
| 78 | St. Clair, John | T | 6-5 | 315 | 07/31/1977 | 5 | Virginia |
| 76 | Tait, John | T | 6-6 | 312 | 01/26/1975 | 8 | Brigham Young |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 32 | Benson, Cedric | RB | 5-11 | 220 | 12/28/1982 | 2 | Texas |
| 47 | Johnson, Bryan | RB | 6-1 | 244 | 01/18/1978 | 6 | Boise State |
| 37 | McKie, Jason | RB | 5-11 | 243 | 05/22/1980 | 5 | Temple |
| 29 | Peterson, Adrian | RB | 5-10 | 210 | 07/01/1979 | 5 | Georgia Southern |
| 48 | Runnels, J.D. | RB | 5-11 | 240 | 06/19/1984 | 1 | Oklahoma |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 86 | Angulo, Richard | TE | 6-7 | 260 | 08/13/1980 | 2 | Western New Mexico |
| 80 | Berrian, Bernard | WR | 6-1 | 180 | 12/27/1980 | 3 | Fresno State |
| 16 | Bradley, Mark | WR | 6-1 | 200 | 01/29/1982 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 88 | Clark, Desmond | TE | 6-3 | 254 | 04/20/1977 | 8 | Wake Forest |
| 17 | Currie, Airese | WR | 5-11 | 185 | 11/16/1982 | 1 | Clemson |
| 81 | Davis, Rashied | WR | 5-9 | 180 | 07/24/1979 | 2 | San Jose State |
| 85 | Gilmore, John | TE | 6-5 | 257 | 09/21/1979 | 5 | Penn State |
| 83 | Hass, Mike | WR | 6-0 | 208 | 01/02/1983 | 0 | Oregon State |
| 87 | Muhammad, Muhsin | WR | 6-2 | 215 | 05/05/1973 | 11 | Michigan State |
| 82 | Reid, Gabe | TE | 6-3 | 252 | 05/28/1977 | 3 | Brigham Young |
| 84 | Rideau, Brandon | WR | 6-3 | 200 | 10/18/1982 | 0 | Kansas |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 73 | Adams, Anthony | DT | 6-0 | 297 | 06/18/1980 | 4 | Penn State |
| 97 | Anderson, Mark | DE | 6-4 | 255 | 05/26/1983 | 1 | Alabama |
| 96 | Brown, Alex | DE | 6-3 | 260 | 06/04/1979 | 5 | Florida |
| 97 | Bryan, Copeland | DE | 6-4 | 240 | 07/14/1983 | 0 | Arizona |
| 98 | Dvoracek, Dusty | DT | 6-3 | 303 | 03/03/1981 | 0 | Oklahoma |
| 90 | Garay, Antonio | DT | 6-4 | 310 | 11/30/1979 | 2 | Boston College |
| 91 | Harris, Tommie | DT | 6-3 | 300 | 10/29/1983 | 3 | Oklahoma |
| 71 | Idonije, Israel | DT | 6-6 | 275 | 11/17/1980 | 3 | Manitoba |
| 99 | Johnson, Tank | DT | 6-3 | 300 | 12/07/1981 | 3 | Washington |
| 73 | Long, Khari | DE | 6-4 | 257 | 05/23/1982 | 1 | Baylor |
| 93 | Ogunleye, Adewale | DE | 6-4 | 260 | 08/09/1977 | 6 | Indiana |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | Archuleta, Adam | S | 6-0 | 223 | 11/27/1977 | 6 | Arizona State |
| 30 | Brown, Mike | S | 5-10 | 207 | 02/13/1978 | 7 | Nebraska |
| 22 | Everett, Tyler | S | 5-11 | 202 | 11/04/1983 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 46 | Harris, Chris | S | 6-0 | 205 | 08/06/1982 | 2 | Louisiana-Monroe |
| 23 | Hester, Devin | CB | 5-11 | 189 | 11/04/1982 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 38 | Manning, Danieal | S | 5-11 | 201 | 08/09/1982 | 1 | Abilene Christian |
| 24 | Manning Jr., Ricky | CB | 5-9 | 188 | 11/18/1980 | 4 | UCLA |
| 36 | McGowan, Brandon | S | 5-11 | 205 | 09/16/1983 | 2 | Maine |
| 33 | Tillman, Charles | CB | 6-1 | 196 | 02/23/1981 | 4 | Louisiana-Lafayette |
| 27 | Turnbull, Nick | S | 6-2 | 216 | 07/28/1981 | 1 | Florida International |
| 31 | Vasher, Nathan | CB | 5-10 | 180 | 11/17/1981 | 3 | Texas |
| 21 | Wesley, Dante | CB | 6-1 | 210 | 04/05/1979 | 5 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 94 | Ayanbadejo, Brendon | LB | 6-1 | 228 | 09/06/1976 | 4 | UCLA |
| 55 | Briggs, Lance | LB | 6-1 | 240 | 11/12/1980 | 4 | Arizona |
| 92 | Hillenmeyer, Hunter | LB | 6-4 | 238 | 10/28/1980 | 4 | Vanderbilt |
| 53 | Joe, Leon | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 10/26/1981 | 3 | Maryland |
| 58 | McClover, Darrell | LB | 6-2 | 226 | 08/25/1981 | 2 | Miami (FL) |
| 54 | Urlacher, Brian | LB | 6-4 | 258 | 05/25/1978 | 7 | New Mexico |
| 52 | Williams, Jamar | LB | 6-0 | 234 | 06/14/1984 | 1 | Arizona State |
| 59 | Wilson, Rod | LB | 6-2 | 230 | 11/12/1981 | 1 | South Carolina |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Filipovic, Filip | P | 6-2 | 216 | 11/05/1977 | 1 | South Dakota |
| 9 | Gould, Robbie | K | 6-1 | 181 | 12/06/1982 | 2 | Penn State |
| 4 | Maynard, Brad | P | 6-1 | 186 | 02/09/1974 | 10 | Ball State |
| 3 | Novak, Nick | K | 6-0 | 189 | 08/21/1981 | 2 | Maryland |

**LOVIE SMITH,** HEAD COACH

**Bob Babich,** def. coord.; **Ron Turner,** off. coord.; **Dave Toub,** special teams coord.; **Pep Hamilton,** quarterbacks; **Rob Boras,** tight ends; **Darryl Drake,** wide receivers; **Tim Spencer,** running backs; **Harry Hiestand,** off. line; **Brick Haley,** def. line; **Hardy Nickerson,** linebackers; **Steven Wilks,** def. backs; **Gill Byrd,** asst. def. back; **Kevin O'Dea,** asst. special teams

# GREEN BAY

# 2

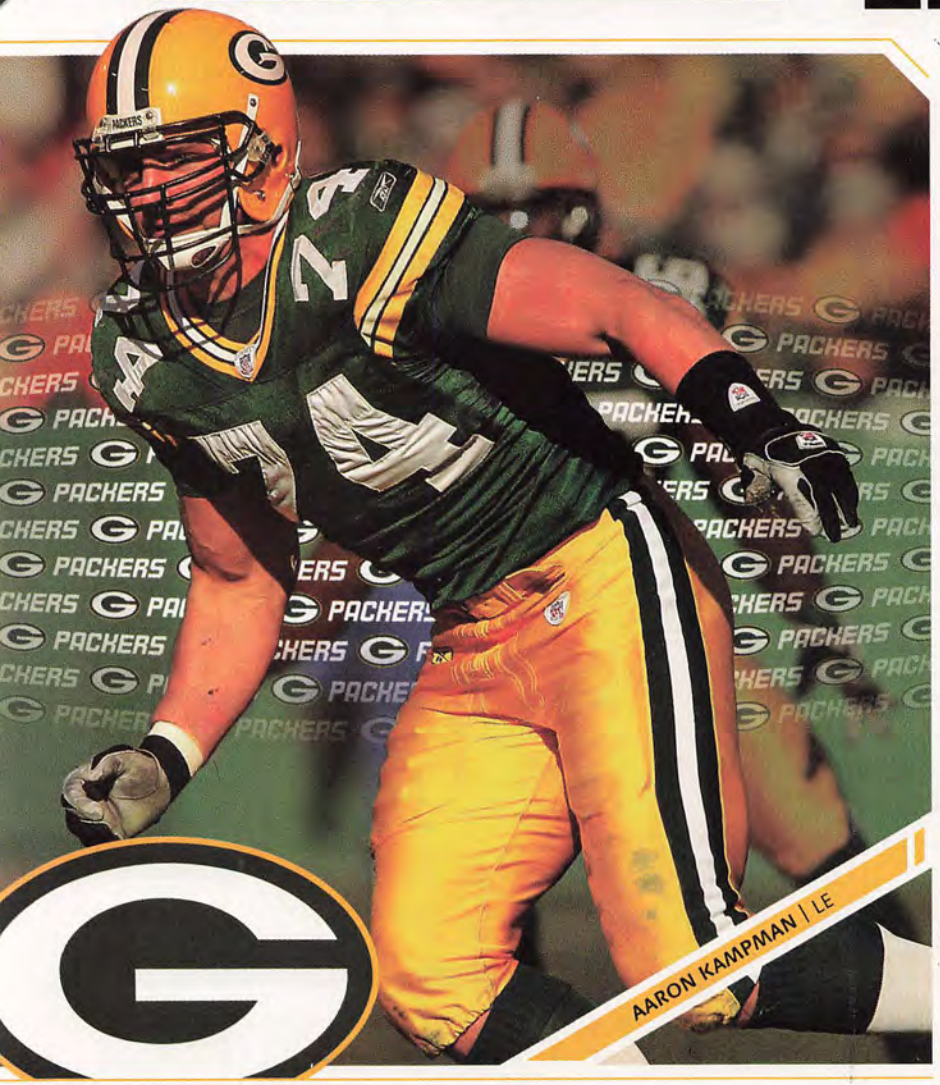
**NFC NORTH**

- 2006 Record: 8-8

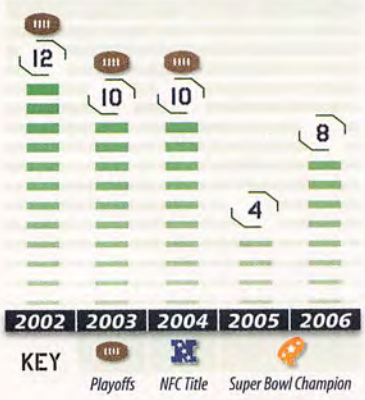
www.packers.com

- LAMBEAU FIELD

Capacity: 72,922 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 920-569-7501




## 5-YEAR WINS TREND




## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| QB | Brett Favre |
| FB | Brandon Miree |
| RB | Vernand Morency |
| LT | Chad Clifton |
| LG | Daryn Colledge |
| C | Scott Wells |
| RG | Jason Spitz |
| RT | Mark Tauscher |
| TE | Bubba Franks |
| WR | Greg Jennings |
| WR | Donald Driver |

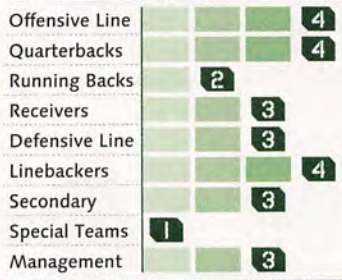
**DEFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| LE | Aaron Kampman |
| LT | Corey Williams |
| RT | Ryan Pickett |
| RE | Cullen Jenkins |
| LLB | Brady Poppinga |
| MLB | Nick Barnett |
| RLB | A.J. Hawk |
| LCB | Charles Woodson |
| RCB | Al Harris |
| SS | Marquand Manuel |
| FS | Nick Collins |

**SPECIAL TEAMS**

| | |
|---|---|
| P | Jon Ryan |
| K | Mason Crosby |
| PR | Shaun Bodiford |
| KR | Shaun Bodiford |

## POWER RATINGS




## The Pack is back?

There are some subtle signs pointing to a playoff renewal for ageless Brett Favre and Green Bay.

Quietly, the Packers are sneaking back into contention. It doesn't require a huge leap in the NFC North. No splashy, headline-grabbing transactions are necessary. While starting five rookies last season, rookie Coach Mike McCarthy improved the Green Bay record from 4-12 to 8-8.

The Packers' offense put up more yards than any other in the division and, with Brett Favre back, there is always hope. He will turn 38 early in the season, the age when so many great quarterbacks have hit a wall, including Dan Marino, whose passing records Favre is chasing. Favre needs just six

### PACKERS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Don Hutson** (1935-45)

*Hutson led all receivers in touchdowns for nine of his 11 seasons, plus receptions for eight and yardage for seven—all NFL records.*

**2 James Lofton** (1978-86)

*Third on the NFL's all-time list in receiving yards with 14,004, Lofton is the only player to score a touchdown in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.*

**3 Sterling Sharpe** (1988-94)

*Holds the Packers' single-season receptions record with 112 in 1993 and might have had more if not for a career-ending neck injury the next year.*

KEVIN TANAKA / SPORTPICS

more scoring strikes to match Marino's 420 touchdown passes.

After winning their last four games, including victories over division rivals Detroit, Minnesota and Chicago to close out the season, the Packers are counting on confidence and momentum stretching into the 2007 schedule. They will need to start fast. Their first three home games are against Philadelphia, San Diego and Chicago.

Lambeau Field has lost its magic touch for the Packers. Last year, they were an unacceptable 3-5 at home while going an excellent 5-3 on the road.

Since going 8-0 at home in 2002, the Packers are 15-17 in Green Bay, which is no way to contend. In Favre's first 11 years with the club, the Packers were 75-13 at home. Now they would be happy just to win more than they lose there. Strangely, the slump has coincided with the renovation of Lambeau. It's as if friendly ghosts of the past have been disturbed.

Contrary to popular belief in Green Bay, Favre will not be around forever. To NFC North rivals, it already seems like that. During his tenure, the Bears have started 20 different quarterbacks against him, the Lions 15 and the Vikings 12.

Favre adapted to the coaching of McCarthy, his former quarterbacks coach, and reduced his interceptions from 29 to 18. Although the 18 still put Favre among league leaders, McCarthy points out many were thrown in desperation when the Packers were behind, which is typical of Favre, who wants to win more than he wants to avoid interceptions.

Heir apparent Aaron Rodgers will have to wait at least another season. Ominously, Rodgers suffered a foot injury in a brief appearance last season and ended up on injured reserve, a painful reminder to Packer fans of the wonder of Favre's streak of 237 starts.

Although Favre has worked well with a variety of receivers, he enjoyed the stability of running back Ahman Green for most of the last seven seasons. The Packers' play-action passing was predicated on Green's ability to keep defenses honest. Now that he's gone, Favre and McCarthy will have to rely on unknown factors to keep the offense effective.

McCarthy is convinced that last season's pickup of Vernand Morency in a trade with

## DRAFT REPORT

With running backs Adrian Peterson and Marshawn Lynch off the draft board, the Packers passed on selecting a wide receiver or tight end, and instead chose DT **Justin Harrell**. It's not that Harrell isn't a quality lineman, but the needs at tight end and wide receiver appeared to be much greater. Green Bay dealt with the loss of Ahman Green by selecting former Nebraska RB **Brandon Jackson** in the second round. Jackson must develop quickly or it could be a long season for QB Brett Favre. The Packers waited until the third round to finally select a WR, taking the versatile **James Jones**, who could also be used as a punt returner. Given the struggles of Marquand Manuel at strong safety last season, **Aaron Rouse** was added in Round Three to be his eventual replacement. **Allen Barbre** is an athletic offensive tackle who fits Green Bay's zone-blocking approach. **David Clowney** brings speed at wide receiver. **Korey Hall** and **Desmond Bishop** are underrated linebackers who have a good chance to make the opening day roster. **Mason Crosby** was the draft's best kicker. Running back **DeShawn Wynn** has been a career underachiever who could earn a roster spot if he finally puts it all together. **Clark Harris** was a highly productive receiving tight end who may lack the speed and quickness on the next level.

**GRADE C**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 16 | Harrell, Justin | DT | 6-4 | 305 | Tennessee |
| 2 | 31 | Jackson, Brandon | RB | 5-11 | 210 | Nebraska |
| 3 | 14 | Jones, James | WR | 6-1 | 210 | San Jose State |
| 3 | 26 | Rouse, Aaron | S | 6-4 | 225 | Virginia Tech |
| 4 | 20 | Barbre, Allen | T | 6-4 | 295 | Missouri Southern St. |
| 5 | 20 | Clowney, David | WR | 6-1 | 175 | Virginia Tech |
| 6 | 17 | Hall, Korey | LB | 6-1 | 228 | Boise State |
| 6 | 18 | Bishop, Desmond | LB | 6-2 | 243 | California |
| 6 | 19 | Crosby, Mason | K | 6-2 | 210 | Colorado |
| 7 | 18 | Wynn, DeShawn | RB | 5-11 | 238 | Florida |
| 7 | 33 | Harris, Clark | TE | 6-6 | 260 | Rutgers |

## THE BOOK ON ... Donald Driver *(how a rival sizes him up)*

JOHN PYLE

"Don't tell anybody, but he's among the top five receivers in the league in my opinion. Real underrated. Excellent jumping ability. He [high] jumped 7-6 in college and was an Olympic candidate. Favre relies on him almost too much to go get it, but he'll fight for the ball. Good speed and gets good separation out of breaks. Not afraid to go over the middle and take hits despite his lack of size.

"The best way to play him is to try to get physical off the line and knock him off his routes. He drops a few passes when he loses concentration, but he's one of the best go-to receivers Favre has ever had. I can't blame the Packers for not chasing Randy Moss."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. *Philadelphia*
SEPT. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 2** @ *New York Giants*
SEPT. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 3** vs. *San Diego*
SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 4** @ *Minnesota*
SEPT. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 5** vs. *Chicago*
OCT. 7 | 8:15

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*After beating the Bears in a relatively meaningless season finale in Chicago, the Packers find out if they can do it again in a really meaningful Sunday night encounter. Rex Grossman is going for his fourth win in a row in Green Bay.*

W SCORE
L

**WEEK 6** vs. *Washington*
OCT. 14 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 7** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 8** @ *Denver*
OCT. 29 | 8:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 9** @ *Kansas City*
NOV. 4 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 10** vs. *Minnesota*
NOV. 11 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 11** vs. *Carolina*
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 12** @ *Detroit*
NOV. 22 | 12:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 13** @ *Dallas*
NOV. 29 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 14** vs. *Oakland*
DEC. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 15** @ *St. Louis*
DEC. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 16** @ *Chicago*
DEC. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 17** vs. *Detroit*
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 0-26 | Chicago |
| 09/17 | L | 27-34 | New Orleans |
| 09/24 | W | 31-24 | at Detroit |
| 10/02 | L | 9-31 | at Philadelphia |
| 10/08 | L | 20-23 | St. Louis |
| 10/22 | W | 34-24 | at Miami |
| 10/29 | W | 31-14 | Arizona |
| 11/05 | L | 10-24 | at Buffalo |
| 11/12 | W | 23-17 | at Minnesota |
| 11/19 | L | 0-35 | New England |
| 11/27 | L | 24-34 | at Seattle |
| 12/03 | L | 10-38 | New York Jets |
| 12/10 | W | 30-19 | at San Francisco |
| 12/17 | W | 17-9 | Detroit |
| 12/21 | W | 9-7 | Minnesota |
| 12/31 | W | 26-7 | at Chicago |

**WON 8, LOST 8**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Green | 266 | 1059 | 4.0 | 70t | 5 |
| Morency | 91 | 421 | 4.6 | 39 | 2 |
| Herron | 37 | 150 | 4.1 | 19 | 1 |
| Favre | 23 | 29 | 1.3 | 14 | 1 |
| Driver | 7 | 16 | 2.3 | 16 | 0 |
| Rodgers | 2 | 11 | 5.5 | 6 | 0 |
| I. Martin | 2 | -5 | -2.5 | -2 | 0 |
| Gado | 2 | -7 | -3.5 | -3 | 0 |
| Ryan | 1 | -11 | -11.0 | -11 | 0 |
| **Packers** | 431 | 1663 | 3.9 | 70t | 9 |
| **Opponents** | 441 | 1825 | 4.1 | 72 | 12 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Driver | 92 | 1295 | 14.1 | 82t | 8 |
| Green | 46 | 373 | 8.1 | 20 | 1 |
| Jennings | 45 | 632 | 14.0 | 75t | 3 |
| Herron | 29 | 211 | 7.3 | 16 | 2 |
| Franks | 25 | 232 | 9.3 | 19 | 0 |
| R. Martin | 21 | 358 | 17.0 | 36t | 1 |
| D. Martin | 21 | 198 | 9.4 | 23 | 2 |
| Morency | 16 | 112 | 7.0 | 29 | 0 |
| Henderson | 12 | 62 | 5.2 | 13 | 0 |
| Lee | 10 | 150 | 15.0 | 32 | 0 |
| Holiday | 9 | 126 | 14.0 | 35 | 0 |
| Miree | 9 | 57 | 6.3 | 20 | 0 |
| Robinson | 7 | 89 | 12.7 | 24 | 0 |
| Ferguson | 5 | 31 | 6.2 | 10 | 1 |
| Francies | 2 | 16 | 8.0 | 12 | 0 |
| Gado | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| **Packers** | 350 | 3947 | 11.3 | 82t | 18 |
| **Opponents** | 286 | 3646 | 12.7 | 75t | 25 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Favre | 613 | 343 | 3885 | 18 | 18 |
| Rodgers | 15 | 6 | 46 | 0 | 0 |
| Ryan | 1 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Holiday | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Packers** | 630 | 350 | 3947 | 18 | 18 |
| **Opponents** | 515 | 286 | 3646 | 25 | 23 |

**SACKS**

Kampman 15.5, C. Williams 7, Jenkins 6.5, Gbaja-Biamila 6, Hawk 3.5, Barnett 2, Montgomery 1.5, Carroll 1, Cole 1, Poppinga 1, Woodson 1

**PACKERS 46, OPPONENTS 24**

Houston will provide dividends that the Packers began to see some of in 2006. Morency subbed for Green and his average of 4.6 yards a carry was better than Green's 4.0. With second-round prospect Brandon Jackson joining Morency, Noah Herron, and second-year man P.J. Pope, McCarthy hopes to make do. How they fare without longtime fullback William Henderson remains to be seen. Brandon Miree is expected to be his replacement.

At receiver, Greg Jennings got off to an excellent start as a rookie until he was hampered by an ankle injury that was more severe than anybody let on. Jennings looks like he can be a perfect complement to underrated Donald Driver, whose 92 catches were twice as many as any other Packer. While that's a remarkable accomplishment given the attention he got, Driver can be even more effective with better help.

The Packers failed to land veteran receiver Randy Moss, who ended up in New England, but they hope draft picks James Jones and David Clowney can push second-year prospects Ruvell Martin and Carlyle Holiday. Green Bay also hopes Robert Ferguson can stay healthy and that Shaun Bodiford will emerge as more than a punt returner.

After losing tight end David Martin to Miami, the Packers must either rejuvenate or replace starter Bubba Franks, who failed to catch a touchdown pass for the first time in his career after getting only one in 2005. Donald Lee could fill Martin's role, while Tory Humphrey, Zac Alcorn and rookie Clark Harris will compete for a roster spot.

Rookie guards Daryn Colledge and Jason Spitz stepped in last season to return the offensive line to prominence. With tackles Chad Clifton and Mark Tauscher and center Scott Wells, Favre again has the luxury of operating behind one of the best lines in the business. Second-year men Tony Moll and Tony Palmer and fourth-year pro Tyson Walter will compete for backup jobs along with rookie Allen Barbre, veteran Kevin Barry and second-year prospect Josh Burke.

Joe Philbin was promoted from offensive line coach to offensive coordinator to replace departed Jeff Jagodzinski and help implement McCarthy's system.

The defense of coordinator Bob Sanders continued to make strides after Sanders took over for Jim Bates last year. The front seven was particularly improved and gives the Packers reason for optimism.

Defensive end Aaron Kampman delivered 15.5 sacks to lead the NFC. He was second overall only to San Diego's Shawne Merriman. Moving Cullen Jenkins to end and using Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila more as a pass rusher should make the front four even better. Jenkins is good against the run and had 6.5 sacks last season.

Tackles Corey Williams and Ryan Pickett are also solid, with Pickett getting in on 92 total tackles and Williams contributing seven sacks in 2006. Pickett's tackle totals were more than any of the more heralded defensive tackles in the division. The tackle position got stronger when the Packers

### DID YOU KNOW

With a 17-9 victory last year over Detroit on Dec. 17, quarterback Brett Favre improved to 16-0 all-time at home against the Lions, including a playoff win in 1994.

Brett Favre threw 12 touchdown passes on the road in 2006, giving him 202 in his career, the most all-time. Favre needs just six more touchdown passes to match Hall-of-Famer Dan Marino on the all-time list with 420.

With a 26-7 victory against Chicago in the last game of the 2006 season, Green Bay improved to 12-1 in regular-season finales since 1994, the best record in the NFL in such games.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**A.J. HAWK**
**linebacker**

As a rookie, he led the team in tackles from the weakside, beating out middle man Nick Barnett. Wait until the defense allows him to get more involved. He'll be even more disruptive.

### NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 341.1 | 8 | Total Defense | 320.9 | 12 |
| Rushing | 103.9 | 23 | Against Rush | 114.1 | 13 |
| Passing | 237.2 | 8 | Against Pass | 206.8 | 17 |
| Scoring | 301 | 22 | Points Allowed | 366 | 25t |
| Punt Returns | 7.8 | 24 | Interceptions | 23 | 3 |
| Kick Returns | 19.7 | 31 | Sacks | 46 | 4 |
| Red Zone TD % | 32.7 | 31 | Turnover Diff. | 0 | 17t |

**FIRST DOWNS**

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 301 | 93 | 185 | 23 |

**RED ZONE OFFENSE**

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 49 | 166 | 16 | 18 |

**TOUCHDOWNS**

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 18 | 0 | 5 |

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Packers)*

"Ted Thompson is taking some heat for building his team slowly but surely. I know [Brett] Favre wanted [Randy] Moss, but Thompson loves draft picks more than anybody and has a philosophy of quantity creating competition, resulting in quality. Look at how he rebuilt the offensive line last year. Needed two starting guards, so he drafted three prospects.

"I like what they've done on the defensive line with moving Cullen Jenkins to end. That front seven is as good as Chicago's. The biggest gamble they're taking is at running back, but again, I expect numbers to create a solution. Greg Jennings is a key. If he's healthy, he can make Favre forget about Moss."

made Justin Harrell of the University of Tennessee their first draft pick. Colin Cole, Johnny Jolly, Jason Hunter, Michael Montgomery and Kenderick Allen will vie for roster spots on the line.

Linebackers A.J. Hawk, Nick Barnett and Brady Poppinga give the Packers a fine young trio. Barnett is only in his fifth season, Poppinga his third and Hawk his second. Hawk led the team in tackles as a rookie playing the weakside, while Barnett was right behind him in the middle.

The Packers also boast depth at linebacker, with Ben Taylor, Abdul Hodge, swingman Hunter, Tracy White and rookies Korey Hall and Desmond Bishop (although Hall could be switched to fullback).

Charles Woodson and Al Harris are coming off very good seasons at cornerback, with Woodson rejuvenating his career with eight interceptions. The Packers added Frank Walker from the Giants in free agency to compete for the nickel job with Will Blackmon, Patrick Dendy and Jarrett Bush.

Starting safeties Marquand Manuel and Nick Collins are backed by second-year men Tyrone Culver, Atari Bigby and Charlie Peprah, with Marviel Underwood coming off injured reserve. The Packers want to see more playmaking from their safeties, so they have high hopes for 6-4, 225-pound third-rounder Aaron Rouse of Virginia Tech.

The Packers have to get more out of their special teams, which have ranked worst in the league for two years in a row. They would like to see Bodiford relieve Woodson as punt returner. The plan was to have Koren Robinson return kickoffs instead of Morency until Robinson was suspended for the year. Kicker Dave Rayner and rookie punter Jon Ryan both had below-average seasons, so draft pick Mason Crosby could beat out Rayner.

**FINAL GRADE**

**72**

STOCK REPORT: UP

## THE COUNT

**32.7**

The Packers' red-zone touchdown percentage last season. Only Oakland had worse red-zone efficiency.

**40-0**

Green Bay's record at home when Brett Favre has a passer rating of at least 100.0.

**73**

Passing yards by Brett Favre last year in a 35-0 loss to New England on Nov. 19, the second-fewest yards he's thrown for in a game during his career.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Frank Walker**, DB (NYG)

*The only offseason acquisition the Packers made before the draft was nickel-back prospect Walker, who started only one game in New York last season.*

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Ahman Green, RB (HOU)
- David Martin, TE (MIA)

> "It really reminds me of my hometown. Just riding through the neighborhoods, it looks a lot like home and it's a place I know I'll be able to get settled in and have a good time."
>
> *—first-round pick Justin Harrell on his initial impressions of Green Bay*

## PACKERS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Favre, Brett | QB | 6-2 | 222 | 10/10/1969 | 16 | Southern Miss |
| 7 | Martin, Ingle | QB | 6-2 | 220 | 08/15/1982 | 1 | Furman |
| 12 | Rodgers, Aaron | QB | 6-2 | 223 | 12/02/1983 | 2 | California |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 76 | Clifton, Chad | T | 6-5 | 330 | 06/26/1976 | 7 | Tennessee |
| 73 | Colledge, Daryn | G | 6-4 | 299 | 02/11/1982 | 1 | Boise State |
| 62 | Coston, Junius | T | 6-3 | 317 | 11/05/1983 | 2 | N.C. A&T |
| 60 | Davis, Rob | C | 6-3 | 284 | 12/10/1968 | 11 | Shippensburg |
| 70 | Klemm, Adrian | G | 6-4 | 318 | 05/21/1977 | 5 | Hawaii |
| 61 | Leffew, Travis | G | 6-4 | 296 | 01/27/1983 | 0 | Louisville |
| 75 | Moll, Tony | G | 6-5 | 308 | 08/23/1983 | 1 | Nevada |
| 64 | Palmer, Tony | G | 6-2 | 326 | 02/23/1983 | 1 | Missouri |
| 72 | Spitz, Jason | G | 6-4 | 313 | 12/19/1982 | 1 | Louisville |
| 68 | Stenavich, Adam | T | 6-5 | 317 | 03/11/1983 | 0 | Michigan |
| 65 | Tauscher, Mark | T | 6-4 | 315 | 06/17/1977 | 7 | Wisconsin |
| 69 | Thompson, Orrin | T | 6-6 | 315 | 11/11/1982 | 0 | Duke |
| 70 | Walter, Tyson | G | 6-4 | 303 | 03/17/1978 | 4 | Ohio State |
| 63 | Wells, Scott | C | 6-2 | 304 | 01/17/1981 | 3 | Tennessee |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | Herron, Noah | RB | 5-11 | 224 | 04/03/1982 | 2 | Northwestern |
| 40 | Miree, Brandon | RB | 5-11 | 237 | 04/14/1981 | 1 | Pittsburgh |
| 34 | Morency, Vernand | RB | 5-9 | 212 | 02/04/1980 | 2 | Oklahoma State |
| 28 | Pope, P.J. | RB | 5-9 | 212 | 02/26/1984 | 1 | Bowling Green |

| # | RECEIVERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 49 | Alcorn, Zac | TE | 6-3 | 250 | 08/24/1980 | 1 | Black Hills State |
| 19 | Bodiford, Shaun | WR | 5-11 | 185 | 05/04/1982 | 1 | Portland State |
| 13 | Brewster, Carlton | WR | 5-11 | 214 | 02/12/1983 | 0 | Ferris State |
| 80 | Driver, Donald | WR | 6-0 | 190 | 02/02/1975 | 8 | Alcorn State |
| 87 | Ferguson, Robert | WR | 6-1 | 219 | 12/17/1979 | 6 | Texas A&M |
| 83 | Francies, Chris | WR | 6-1 | 193 | 07/26/1982 | 1 | UTEP |
| 88 | Franks, Bubba | TE | 6-6 | 265 | 01/06/1978 | 7 | Miami (FL) |
| 18 | Holiday, Carlyle | WR | 6-2 | 220 | 10/04/1981 | 2 | Notre Dame |
| 84 | Humphrey, Tory | TE | 6-2 | 257 | 01/20/1983 | 2 | Central Michigan |
| 85 | Jennings, Greg | WR | 5-11 | 196 | 09/21/1983 | 1 | Western Michigan |
| 86 | Lee, Donald | TE | 6-4 | 248 | 08/31/1980 | 4 | Mississippi State |
| 82 | Martin, Ruvell | WR | 6-4 | 217 | 08/10/1982 | 1 | Saginaw Valley |
| 17 | Russell, Calvin | WR | 6-1 | 170 | 06/14/1983 | 0 | Tuskegee |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 90 | Cole, Colin | DT | 6-2 | 325 | 06/24/1980 | 3 | Iowa |
| 94 | Gbaja-Biamila, Kabeer | DE | 6-4 | 250 | 09/24/1977 | 7 | San Diego State |
| 77 | Jenkins, Cullen | DE | 6-3 | 290 | 01/20/1981 | 3 | Central Michigan |
| 93 | Jolly, Johnny | DT | 6-3 | 317 | 02/21/1983 | 1 | Texas A&M |
| 74 | Kampman, Aaron | DE | 6-4 | 278 | 11/30/1979 | 5 | Iowa |
| 96 | Montgomery, Mike | DE | 6-5 | 275 | 08/18/1983 | 2 | Texas A&M |
| 79 | Pickett, Ryan | NT | 6-2 | 322 | 10/08/1979 | 6 | Ohio State |
| 99 | Williams, Corey | DT | 6-4 | 313 | 08/17/1980 | 3 | Arkansas State |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | Bigby, Atari | S | 5-11 | 220 | 09/19/1981 | 2 | UCF |
| 27 | Blackmon, Will | CB | 6-0 | 198 | 10/27/1984 | 1 | Boston College |
| 24 | Bush, Jarrett | CB | 6-0 | 194 | 05/21/1984 | 1 | Utah State |
| 36 | Collins, Nick | S | 5-11 | 200 | 08/16/1983 | 2 | Bethune-Cookman |
| 29 | Culver, Tyrone | S | 6-1 | 200 | 07/06/1983 | 1 | Fresno State |
| 43 | Dendy, Patrick | CB | 6-0 | 190 | 03/10/1982 | 2 | Rice |
| 31 | Harris, Al | CB | 6-1 | 185 | 12/07/1974 | 9 | Texas A&M-Kingsville |
| 22 | Manuel, Marquand | S | 6-0 | 209 | 07/11/1979 | 5 | Florida |
| 47 | Nnabuife, Alvin | CB | 6-1 | 207 | 04/03/1983 | 0 | Southern Methodist |
| 26 | Peprah, Charlie | S | 5-11 | 202 | 02/24/1983 | 1 | Alabama |
| 41 | Walker, Frank | CB | 5-10 | 197 | 08/06/1981 | 4 | Tuskegee |
| 38 | Williams, Tramon | CB | 6-0 | 180 | 03/16/1983 | 0 | Louisiana Tech |
| 21 | Woodson, Charles | CB | 6-1 | 208 | 10/07/1976 | 9 | Michigan |

| # | LINEBACKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 56 | Barnett, Nick | LB | 6-2 | 232 | 05/27/1981 | 4 | Oregon State |
| 46 | Goodwell, Tim | LB | 6-2 | 234 | 01/30/1984 | 0 | Memphis |
| 53 | Havner, Spencer | LB | 6-4 | 245 | 02/02/1983 | 0 | UCLA |
| 50 | Hawk, A.J. | LB | 6-1 | 246 | 01/06/1984 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 52 | Hodge, Abdul | LB | 6-0 | 236 | 09/09/1982 | 1 | Iowa |
| 57 | Hunter, Jason | LB | 6-4 | 255 | 08/28/1983 | 1 | Appalachian State |
| 51 | Poppinga, Brady | LB | 6-3 | 245 | 09/21/1979 | 2 | Brigham Young |
| 48 | Randall, Marcus | LB | 6-2 | 219 | 03/14/1982 | 1 | LSU |
| 59 | White, Tracy | LB | 6-0 | 236 | 04/14/1981 | 4 | Howard |

| # | KICKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | Rayner, Dave | K | 6-2 | 210 | 10/26/1982 | 2 | Michigan State |
| 9 | Ryan, Jon | P | 6-0 | 202 | 11/26/1981 | 1 | Regina |

**MIKE McCARTHY**, HEAD COACH

**Winston Moss**, asst. head coach/def.; **Joe Philbin**, off. coord.; **Edgar Bennett**, running backs; **James Campen**, off. line; **Tom Clements**, quarterbacks; **Jerry Fontenot**, asst. off. line; **Ben McAdoo**, tight ends; **Jimmy Robinson**, wide receivers; **Bob Sanders**, def. coord.; **Carl Hairston**, def. ends; **Robert Nunn**, def. tackles; **Kurt Schottenheimer**, secondary; **Lionel Washington**, def. nickel package/cornerbacks; **Mike Stock**, special teams coord.; **Shawn Slocum**, asst. special teams

# DETROIT

# 3

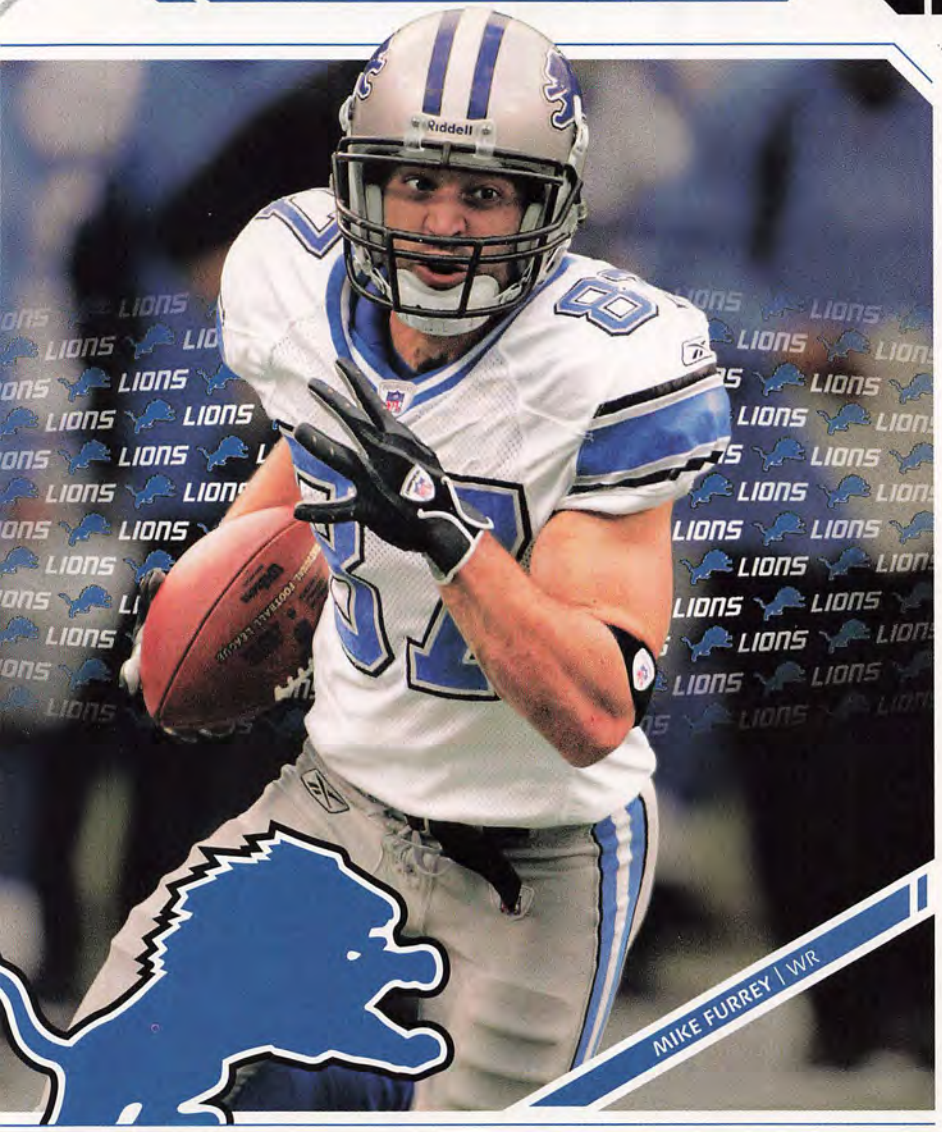
**NFC NORTH**

- 2006 Record: 3-13

www.detroitlions.com

- FORD FIELD

Capacity: 65,000 Turf: Artificial
Tickets: 313-262-2003




## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| QB | Jon Kitna |
| FB | T.J. Duckett |
| RB | Tatum Bell |
| LT | Jeff Backus |
| LG | Zach Piller |
| C | Dominic Raiola |
| RG | Edwin Mulitalo |
| RT | George Foster |
| TE | Dan Campbell |
| WR | Roy Williams |
| WR | Calvin Johnson |

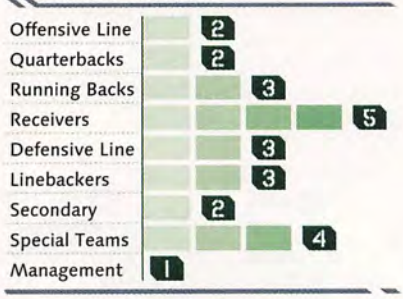
**DEFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| LE | Kalimba Edwards |
| LT | Shaun Rogers |
| RT | Cory Redding |
| RE | Dewayne White |
| LLB | Boss Bailey |
| MLB | Paris Lenon |
| RLB | Ernie Sims |
| LCB | Fernando Bryant |
| RCB | Stanley Wilson |
| SS | Kenoy Kennedy |
| FS | Daniel Bullocks |

**SPECIAL TEAMS**

| | |
|---|---|
| P | Nick Harris |
| K | Jason Hanson |
| PR | Eddie Drummond |
| KR | Eddie Drummond |

## POWER RATINGS




BRIAN YABLONSKY / SPORTSCHROME

## The Detroit drill

Second-year Coach Rod Marinelli is simply looking for a few good men who equate football with living, and believes he's finding more and more of them.

Things are looking up for the Lions because, as usual, there is no place else to look. The Matt Millen Era has been one of the worst in NFL history, partly because the Ford family has been uncommonly patient. The six-year record under President Millen and his three coaches is an unbelievable 24-72, which means the Lions would have to string together three perfect 16-0 seasons in a row to get him to .500.

The Lions don't like to linger in the past, for very good reason. Rod Marinelli is the kind of positive coach who makes listeners believe. As soon as Millen can gather more believers on the roster, optimists think good things will happen.

It's not like the Lions haven't had their chances to collect solid contributors. They've become so accustomed to drafting in the top 10 that their fans are convinced it's a good thing. Because three of their last five top picks have flopped—quarterback Joey Harrington and receivers Charles Rogers and Mike Williams—they get to try, try again.

## THE BOOK ON ... Ernie Sims *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Sims is Detroit's answer to the Bucs' Derrick Brooks. He led the team in tackles as a rookie and just wait until he figures out what he's doing. He should be even better under new coordinator Joe Barry from Tampa. The guy just flies around and hits like a machine. He doesn't hug you down, either. He arrives with some anger. ...

"It's unbelievable he didn't have any forced fumbles last year. That will change. What really makes him valuable is he can play in coverage, too. He didn't have an interception or a pass defensed either, so I expect that will change. If it doesn't, they're wasting his talents. The NFC North is a linebacker division and Sims is one reason why."

This time, everybody agrees they got it right because Georgia Tech receiver Calvin Johnson was the consensus best player in the draft regardless of position.

All Marinelli is trying to do is find players who like football as much as he does. His first pick last year is a good example.

"I talked to Ernie Sims," Marinelli says of his weakside linebacker and leading tackler. "The guy came forward [in his seat]. The guy was on my desk, looking at me. The guy just loves football. It didn't take long to see it."

Marinelli's mantra is "pounding the rock." He wants his players to work as hard as they can every day, every play, whether or not they see results. It's a character test that the coach is convinced eventually will pay dividends.

Mike Furrey is another example. All he did was lead the NFC in pass receptions last year. Pretty good for a player who signed as a free agent after playing safety for Offensive Coordinator Mike Martz when he was head coach in St. Louis. Martz noticed he was making most of the tackles on special teams. He didn't have room for Furrey at receiver, so Martz switched him to safety. When the Rams didn't want him any longer, Martz recommended Furrey to Marinelli.

The Lions had drafted all these highly touted receivers, yet it was Furrey who caught the most passes. Roy Williams led the NFC in yardage with 1,310, so adding Johnson means the Lions believe nobody can cover all three.

Journeyman quarterback Jon Kitna also convinced Marinelli and Martz he could get the job done last season. He passed for more than 4,000 yards and, even though he'll soon be 35, the Lions are counting on him for at least one more year before second-round draft choice Drew Stanton is thrown into the fire. After trading Josh McCown, Dan Orlovsky and Stanton are the backups.

The Lions also know that in order to win more than three games, Kitna must get sacked fewer than 63 times, which was most in the NFC. The offensive line and running game will have to take pressure off the passing game, so Detroit addressed both areas before the draft.

## DRAFT REPORT

After months of speculation that Detroit would trade down, the Lions stayed at No. 2 overall and selected the best player in the draft in Georgia Tech WR **Calvin Johnson**. The combination of Johnson and Roy Williams with Mike Furrey in the slot should have defensive coordinators scheming long into the night to find a match-up solution. **Drew Stanton** was added early in Round Two to be the quarterback of the future. Stanton's mechanics need some work, but he'll get outstanding coaching from Offensive Coordinator Mike Martz. **Ikaika Alama-Francis** flashes athletic ability and potential at DE, but lacks experience and was overrated by many scouts. Safety **Gerald Alexander** was another reach in the second round. **A.J. Davis** and **Ramzee Robinson** have a good chance to make the opening day roster, with both providing depth at cornerback. Guard **Manuel Ramirez** could start as a rookie, while ILB **Johnny Baldwin** will need a year on the practice squad. In a purging of past mistakes, the Lions dealt QB Josh McCown and WR Mike Williams to Oakland for a fourth-round pick, which Detroit used on Davis. Johnson is a sure thing, but the development of Stanton will make or break this draft.

**GRADE C+**

## 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS | HT | WT | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | Johnson, Calvin | WR | 6-4 | 237 | Georgia Tech |
| 2 | 11 | Stanton, Drew | QB | 6-3 | 230 | Michigan State |
| 2 | 26 | Alama-Francis, Ikaika | DE | 6-5 | 250 | Hawaii |
| 2 | 29 | Alexander, Gerald | S | 6-0 | 204 | Boise State |
| 4 | 6 | Davis, A.J. | CB | 5-10 | 191 | North Carolina State |
| 4 | 18 | Ramirez, Manuel | G | 6-4 | 335 | Texas Tech |
| 5 | 21 | Baldwin, Johnny | LB | 6-1 | 225 | Alabama A&M |
| 7 | 45 | Robinson, Ramzee | CB | 5-10 | 196 | Alabama |

## THE COUNT

| 2-9 | 58 | 6-42 |
|---|---|---|
| The Lions' record in close games (decided by eight points or less) last season, the worst in the league. | Points that kicker Jason Hanson needs to move into the top 10 all-time leading scorers in NFL history. | Detroit's road record since President Matt Millen took over in 2001. |

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1 @ Oakland**
SEPT. 9 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 2 vs. Minnesota**
SEPT. 16 | 4:05
MUST-SEE GAME
*It's only the second week of the season, probably too early to start making comparisons between the two best players in the draft—Detroit's Calvin Johnson and Minnesota's Adrian Peterson. Maybe by Dec. 2 indoors in Minnesota, fans can get a better idea of how the future looks.*
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 3 @ Philadelphia**
SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 4 vs. Chicago**
SEPT. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 5 @ Washington**
OCT. 7 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 6 OPEN DATE**

**WEEK 7 vs. Tampa Bay**
OCT. 21 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 8 @ Chicago**
OCT. 28 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 9 vs. Denver**
NOV. 4 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 10 @ Arizona**
NOV. 11 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 11 vs. New York Giants**
NOV. 18 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 12 vs. Green Bay**
NOV. 22 | 12:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 13 @ Minnesota**
DEC. 2 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 14 vs. Dallas**
DEC. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 15 @ San Diego**
DEC. 16 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 16 vs. Kansas City**
DEC. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 17 @ Green Bay**
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 6-9 | Seattle |
| 09/17 | L | 7-34 | at Chicago |
| 09/24 | L | 24-31 | Green Bay |
| 10/01 | L | 34-41 | at St. Louis |
| 10/08 | L | 17-26 | at Minnesota |
| 10/15 | W | 20-17 | Buffalo |
| 10/22 | L | 24-31 | at New York Jets |
| 11/05 | W | 30-14 | Atlanta |
| 11/12 | L | 13-19 | San Francisco |
| 11/19 | L | 10-17 | at Arizona |
| 11/23 | L | 10-27 | Miami |
| 12/03 | L | 21-28 | at New England |
| 12/10 | L | 20-30 | Minnesota |
| 12/17 | L | 9-17 | at Green Bay |
| 12/24 | L | 21-26 | Chicago |
| 12/31 | W | 39-31 | at Dallas |

**WON 3, LOST 13**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jones | 181 | 689 | 3.8 | 52 | 6 |
| A. Harris | 49 | 158 | 3.2 | 20 | 1 |
| Kitna | 34 | 156 | 4.6 | 18 | 2 |
| Cason | 24 | 94 | 3.9 | 16 | 0 |
| Calhoun | 7 | 19 | 2.7 | 7 | 0 |
| Drummond | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Ellis | 2 | 3 | 1.5 | 12 | 0 |
| Gordon | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| R. Williams | 2 | 2 | 1.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Bryson | 2 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0 |
| Hakim | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| **Lions** | 304 | 1129 | 3.7 | 52 | 9 |
| **Opponents** | 492 | 2010 | 4.1 | 61t | 18 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Furrey | 98 | 1086 | 11.1 | 31 | 6 |
| R. Williams | 82 | 1310 | 16.0 | 60t | 7 |
| Jones | 61 | 520 | 8.5 | 26 | 2 |
| Campbell | 21 | 308 | 14.7 | 30 | 4 |
| A. Harris | 18 | 132 | 7.3 | 20 | 0 |
| Hakim | 17 | 147 | 8.6 | 23 | 0 |
| Bradford | 14 | 164 | 11.7 | 23 | 0 |
| Pollard | 12 | 100 | 8.3 | 22 | 0 |
| M. Williams | 8 | 99 | 12.4 | 21t | 1 |
| Bryson | 8 | 98 | 12.3 | 37t | 1 |
| Schlesinger | 8 | 36 | 4.5 | 6 | 0 |
| Fitzsimmons | 7 | 71 | 10.1 | 18 | 0 |
| Cason | 5 | 26 | 5.2 | 14 | 0 |
| Ellis | 4 | 41 | 10.3 | 19 | 0 |
| McHugh | 3 | 25 | 8.3 | 11 | 0 |
| Calhoun | 2 | 20 | 10.0 | 18 | 0 |
| McCown | 2 | 15 | 7.5 | 8 | 0 |
| Drummond | 2 | 10 | 5.0 | 8 | 0 |
| **Lions** | 372 | 4208 | 11.3 | 60t | 21 |
| **Opponents** | 339 | 3721 | 11.0 | 75t | 22 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kitna | 596 | 372 | 4208 | 21 | 22 |
| **Lions** | 596 | 372 | 4208 | 21 | 22 |
| **Opponents** | 511 | 339 | 3721 | 22 | 12 |

**SACKS**

Redding 8, Hall 5, K. Edwards 3, Rogers 3, Jackson 2, C. Smith 2, Bailey 1, Bell 1, Bullocks 1, Kennedy 1, Holt 0.5, Sims 0.5

**LIONS 30, OPPONENTS 63**

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Lions)*

"Here they go again. I can just see Mike Martz before the draft locking himself in a room with Matt Millen and Rod Marinelli like the mad scientist, frantically working the chalkboard to convince them he could turn Calvin Johnson, Roy Williams and Mike Furrey into an unstoppable offense. I hope he can find enough balls. No way will Johnson and Williams enjoy a long career together like Isaac Bruce and Torry Holt [with the Rams] or Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne [in Indianapolis]. They're both No. 1 receivers. Can't blame the Lions for trying, though, and they should have fun while it lasts. ...

"Shaun Rogers is a big key to the whole thing. If he's motivated, he can turn the whole team around."

Detroit traded cornerback Dré Bly to Denver for running back Tatum Bell and offensive tackle George Foster. The Lions also added big running back T.J. Duckett and veteran offensive guards Edwin Mulitalo and Zach Piller.

Bell and Duckett provide insurance since Kevin Jones is not expected to be fully recovered from a serious foot injury suffered last December. Arlen Harris and Aveion Cason also will compete, but Bell was a 1,000-yard rusher in Denver who could win this job outright. With Shawn Bryson and Brian Calhoun also coming off injured reserve with Jones, the running-back lines will be long in training camp.

Detroit's 304 rushing attempts were the fewest in the league last year. True, the Lions were behind in a lot of games, but Martz will also have to force himself to stick to the run more than he normally likes.

This will be difficult with Johnson in the lineup and Martz wanting to go with three and four wideouts. Speedy wide receiver Shaun McDonald was added from St. Louis and veteran Marcus Robinson was picked up from Minnesota. Veteran tight end Marcus Pollard signed with Seattle, but Dan Campbell was a pleasant surprise as a blocker and receiver and Casey FitzSimmons is expected back from injury.

Piller started at left guard for Tennessee and Mulitalo was the regular there for Baltimore before both got hurt. They are both expected to move into Detroit's lineup between left tackle Jeff Backus and right tackle Foster, with Dominic Raiola at center. Frank Davis and Jonathan Scott received starts as rookies last season, as did second-year guard Stephen Peterman. Rookie Manuel Ramirez joins the young depth along with veteran possibilities in Rex Tucker, Barry Stokes, and Damien Woody.

Marinelli hired son-in-law Joe Barry from Tampa Bay to take over his defense, which finished a disappointing 28th in

### DID YOU KNOW

The Lions are the second franchise in NFL history to lose at least 10 games in six straight seasons, joining Tampa Bay, which went 12 years in a row (1983-94).

In his first year in Detroit, Jon Kitna set Lions passing records for most completions (372) and attempts (596) and finished with the second-most passing yards (4,208) in team history.

Mike Furrey's 98 receptions last year were the most by a non-rookie in league history following a season of zero catches, breaking Denver's Lionel Taylor's record of 92 set in 1960.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**CORY REDDING**
**defensive tackle**

He actually broke out last year, but did so under the radar. Shaun Rogers is supposed to be the big stud in the middle, but he played only six games in 2006 and former University of Texas sidekick Redding has missed only one contest in three years and had eight sacks last season.

### LIONS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Herman Moore** (1991-2001)
*Set the league record with 123 receptions in 1995 and went on to notch 670 for 9,174 yards and 62 touchdowns for his career, all tops in Lions history.*

**2 Johnnie Morton** (1994-2001)
*Morton went over 1,000 yards four times and gained 6,499 on 469 receptions during his eight years in Detroit, both second all-time for the Lions.*

**3 Brett Perriman** (1991-96)
*With Perriman's 108 catches for 1,488 yards in 1995, he and Herman Moore became the second teammates in history to top 100 receptions in the same year.*

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

yards and 30th in points, nowhere close to Marinelli's expectations.

Barry brought defensive end Dewayne White with him from Tampa Bay, where he had five sacks in eight starts and will replace departed James Hall. Kalimba Edwards, Corey Smith and Jared DeVries are also in the rotation at end and Bill Swancutt is coming off injured reserve. Rookie second-rounder Ikaika Alama-Francis is raw but has upside.

For the Tampa-2 defense to work at capacity, however, the Lions need tackle Shaun Rogers to play a whole season at his full capacity. When healthy and motivated, Rogers is a load who's capable of disrupting the middle the way Warren Sapp did in Tampa Bay and Tommie Harris does in Chicago. But if the Lions have him for only six starts as they did last season, their chances diminish accordingly.

Cory Redding developed as a force at tackle with eight sacks and 70 total tackles. With a healthy Rogers, the Lions have the potential to field an outstanding interior. Shaun Cody is also a former starter who's coming off injured reserve.

Likewise, healthy seasons from linebackers Teddy Lehman and Boss Bailey will fortify what can be a strength of this team, with leading tackler Sims and surprising middle linebacker Paris Lenon. Alex Lewis, Donté Curry and Anthony Cannon are also available. Sims, Lenon and Bailey finished one-two-three in tackles, doing what linebackers are supposed to do. Rookie Johnny Baldwin of Alabama A&M was added in the fifth round of the draft.

The Lions could afford to part with Bly because he is more of a cover corner than the classic Cover-2 corner who is asked to be more physical. The Lions signed Travis Fisher from St. Louis and expect him to become the nickel back behind starters Stanley Wilson and Fernando Bryant. Keith Smith, Dee McCann and rookies A.J. Davis and Ramzee Robinson lend depth.

Daniel Bullocks will replace Terrence Holt at free safety, with Kenoy Kennedy at strong safety and Jon McGraw and rookie second-rounder Gerald Alexander of Boise State in reserve.

Detroit's special teams have been the best unit on the team for years. Eddie Drummond still handles both kickoff and punt returns, backed by Cason. Placekicker Jason Hanson seems ageless and Nick Harris finished among the best punters in the league last year.

**FINAL GRADE**

**68**

**STOCK REPORT**

**UP**

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Tatum Bell**, RB (trade, DEN)

*The Lions need to jump-start their running offense, so they traded for running back Tatum Bell and tackle George Foster from Denver and added hometown running back T.J. Duckett.*

- George Foster, OT (trade, DEN)
- T.J. Duckett, RB (WAS)
- Shaun McDonald, WR (STL)
- Dewayne White, DE (TB)
- Travis Fisher, CB (STL)
- Zach Piller, OG (TEN)
- Edwin Mulitalo, OG (BAL)
- Marcus Robinson, WR (MIN)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Dré Bly, CB (trade, DEN)
- Terrence Holt, S (ARI)
- James Hall, DE (trade, STL)
- Marcus Pollard, TE (SEA)
- Jon McGraw, DB (KC)
- Jamar Fletcher, DB (HOU)
- Marcus Bell, NT (NYG)
- Anthony Bryant, DT (ATL)
- Rick DeMulling, OG (IND)
- Mike Williams, WR (trade, OAK)
- Josh McCown, QB (trade, OAK)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 309.3 | 22 |
| Rushing | 70.6 | 32 |
| Passing | 238.8 | 7 |
| Scoring | 305 | 21 |
| Punt Returns | 11.3 | 4 |
| Kick Returns | 22.3 | 20 |
| Red Zone TD % | 40.0 | 30 |
| Total Defense | 345.6 | 28 |
| Against Rush | 125.6 | 21 |
| Against Pass | 220.0 | 25 |
| Points Allowed | 398 | 30 |
| Interceptions | 12 | 25t |
| Sacks | 30 | 25t |
| Turnover Diff. | -9 | 29 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 290 | 53 | 208 | 29 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 45 | 183 | 18 | 19 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 21 | 0 | 1 |

## LIONS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | Kitna, Jon | QB | 6-2 | 225 | 09/21/1972 | 10 | Central Washington |
| 6 | Orlovsky, Dan | QB | 6-5 | 225 | 08/18/1983 | 1 | Connecticut |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 76 | Backus, Jeff | T | 6-5 | 305 | 09/21/1977 | 6 | Michigan |
| 61 | Davis, Frank | G | 6-4 | 326 | 08/22/1981 | 1 | South Florida |
| 72 | Foster, George | T | 6-5 | 338 | 06/09/1980 | 4 | Georgia |
| 48 | Muhlbach, Don | C | 6-4 | 256 | 08/17/1981 | 3 | Texas A&M |
| 64 | Mulitalo, Edwin | G | 6-3 | 350 | 09/01/1974 | 8 | Arizona |
| 63 | Noll, Ben | G | 6-4 | 317 | 11/14/1981 | 2 | Pennsylvania |
| 60 | Pearson, Dave | C | 6-3 | 297 | 03/29/1981 | 1 | Michigan |
| 66 | Peterman, Stephen | G | 6-4 | 323 | 01/11/1982 | 2 | LSU |
| 69 | Piller, Zach | G | 6-5 | 315 | 05/02/1976 | 8 | Florida |
| 51 | Raiola, Dominic | C | 6-1 | 295 | 12/30/1978 | 6 | Nebraska |
| 67 | Saipaia, Blaine | G | 6-3 | 315 | 08/25/1978 | 3 | Colorado State |
| 73 | Scott, Jonathan | T | 6-6 | 314 | 01/10/1983 | 1 | Texas |
| 77 | Stickdorn, Clint | T | 6-5 | 307 | 04/30/1982 | 1 | Cincinnati |
| 68 | Stokes, Barry | G | 6-4 | 310 | 12/20/1973 | 7 | Eastern Michigan |
| 74 | Tucker, Rex | G | 6-5 | 315 | 12/20/1976 | 7 | Texas A&M |
| 65 | Woody, Damien | G | 6-3 | 325 | 11/03/1977 | 8 | Boston College |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | Bell, Tatum | RB | 5-11 | 213 | 03/02/1981 | 3 | Oklahoma State |
| 24 | Bryson, Shawn | RB | 6-1 | 230 | 11/20/1976 | 7 | Tennessee |
| 29 | Calhoun, Brian | RB | 5-9 | 202 | 05/08/1984 | 1 | Wisconsin |
| 36 | Cason, Aveion | RB | 5-10 | 204 | 07/12/1979 | 6 | Illinois State |
| 45 | Duckett, T.J. | RB | 6-0 | 254 | 02/17/1981 | 5 | Michigan State |
| 34 | Jones, Kevin | RB | 5-11 | 221 | 08/21/1982 | 3 | Virginia Tech |
| 39 | Sherrell, Anthony | RB | 5-10 | 190 | 08/13/1983 | 0 | Eastern Michigan |

| # | RECEIVERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 89 | Campbell, Dan | TE | 6-5 | 262 | 04/13/1976 | 8 | Texas A&M |
| 18 | Drummond, Eddie | WR | 5-9 | 190 | 04/12/1980 | 5 | Penn State |
| 80 | Ellis, Devale | WR | 5-11 | 170 | 04/02/1984 | 1 | Hofstra |
| 82 | FitzSimmons, Casey | TE | 6-4 | 258 | 10/10/1980 | 4 | Carroll (MT) |
| 19 | Ford, Carl | WR | 6-0 | 182 | 10/08/1980 | 1 | Toledo |
| 87 | Furrey, Mike | WR | 6-0 | 205 | 05/12/1977 | 4 | Northern Iowa |
| 85 | Kasper, Kevin | WR | 6-1 | 197 | 12/23/1977 | 5 | Iowa |
| 84 | McDonald, Shaun | WR | 5-10 | 183 | 06/13/1981 | 4 | Arizona State |
| 49 | McHugh, Sean | TE | 6-5 | 265 | 05/27/1982 | 3 | Penn State |
| 86 | Robinson, Marcus | WR | 6-3 | 215 | 02/27/1975 | 9 | South Carolina |
| 19 | Russell, Cliff | WR | 5-11 | 190 | 02/08/1979 | 4 | Utah |
| 28 | Sanders, Darnell | TE | 6-6 | 270 | 03/16/1979 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 15 | Shepherd, Edell | WR | 6-1 | 175 | 05/18/1980 | 3 | San Jose State |
| 11 | Williams, Roy | WR | 6-2 | 212 | 12/20/1981 | 3 | Texas |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 75 | Cody, Shaun | DT | 6-4 | 293 | 01/22/1983 | 2 | USC |
| 95 | DeVries, Jared | DE | 6-4 | 275 | 06/11/1976 | 8 | Iowa |
| 98 | Edwards, Kalimba | DE | 6-6 | 265 | 12/26/1979 | 5 | South Carolina |
| 70 | Harriott, Claude | DE | 6-3 | 271 | 04/08/1981 | 0 | Pittsburgh |
| 79 | Moore, Langston | DT | 6-1 | 305 | 07/17/1981 | 3 | South Carolina |
| 62 | Pinkney, Cleveland | DT | 6-1 | 300 | 09/14/1977 | 3 | South Carolina |
| 78 | Redding, Cory | DT | 6-4 | 290 | 11/15/1980 | 4 | Texas |
| 92 | Rogers, Shaun | DT | 6-4 | 345 | 03/12/1979 | 6 | Texas |
| 93 | Smith, Corey | DE | 6-2 | 250 | 11/02/1979 | 5 | N.C. State |
| 90 | Swancutt, Bill | DE | 6-4 | 270 | 09/04/1982 | 1 | Oregon State |
| 91 | White, Dewayne | DE | 6-2 | 273 | 10/19/1979 | 4 | Louisville |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 44 | Bashir, Idrees | S | 6-2 | 198 | 12/07/1978 | 5 | Memphis |
| 41 | Beckham, Tony | CB | 6-1 | 195 | 10/01/1978 | 4 | Wisconsin-Stout |
| 25 | Bryant, Fernando | CB | 5-10 | 175 | 03/26/1977 | 8 | Alabama |
| 27 | Bullocks, Daniel | S | 6-0 | 213 | 02/28/1983 | 1 | Nebraska |
| 31 | Charlton, Ike | CB | 5-11 | 199 | 10/06/1977 | 4 | Virginia Tech |
| 21 | Fisher, Travis | CB | 5-10 | 189 | 09/12/1979 | 5 | UCF |
| 26 | Kennedy, Kenoy | S | 6-1 | 215 | 11/15/1977 | 7 | Arkansas |
| 35 | Pruitt, Etric | S | 6-0 | 196 | 08/16/1981 | 2 | Southern Miss |
| 23 | Smith, Keith | CB | 5-11 | 192 | 03/20/1980 | 3 | McNeese State |
| 33 | Wilson, Stanley | CB | 5-11 | 185 | 11/05/1982 | 2 | Stanford |

| # | LINEBACKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 97 | Bailey, Boss | LB | 6-3 | 235 | 10/14/1979 | 3 | Georgia |
| 99 | Cannon, Anthony | LB | 6-0 | 226 | 12/31/1984 | 1 | Tulane |
| 55 | Curry, Donté | LB | 6-1 | 233 | 07/22/1978 | 6 | Morris Brown |
| 54 | Lehman, Teddy | LB | 6-2 | 238 | 11/18/1981 | 3 | Oklahoma |
| 53 | Lenon, Paris | LB | 6-2 | 240 | 11/26/1977 | 5 | Richmond |
| 59 | Lewis, Alex | LB | 6-0 | 227 | 06/11/1981 | 3 | Wisconsin |
| 50 | Sims, Ernie | LB | 5-11 | 232 | 12/23/1984 | 1 | Florida State |

| # | KICKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Hanson, Jason | K | 5-11 | 182 | 06/17/1970 | 15 | Washington State |
| 2 | Harris, Nick | P | 6-2 | 218 | 07/23/1978 | 6 | California |

**ROD MARINELLI**, HEAD COACH

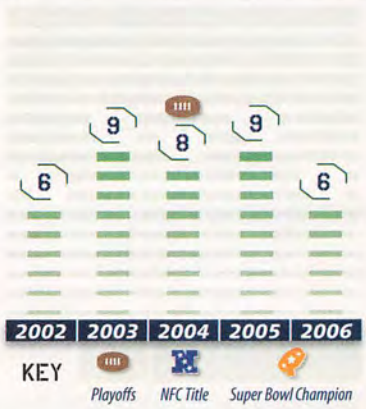
**Mike Martz**, off. coord.; **Mike Barry**, asst. off. line; **Kippy Brown**, wide receivers; **Pat Carter**, tight ends; **Jim Colletto**, off. line; **Adam Gase**, quarterbacks; **Wilbert Montgomery**, running backs; **Joe Barry**, def. coord.; **Joe Cullen**, def. line; **Clayton Lopez**, def. backs; **Phil Snow**, linebackers; **Sam Gash**, asst. special teams; **Stan Kwan**, special teams

# MINNESOTA 4

**NFC NORTH**

2006 Record: 6-10
www.vikings.com
THE METRODOME
Capacity: 64,111 Turf: Artificial
Tickets: 612-338-4537

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND




## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Tarvaris Jackson |
| FB | Tony Richardson |
| RB | Chester Taylor |
| LT | Bryant McKinnie |
| LG | Steve Hutchinson |
| C | Matt Birk |
| RG | Artis Hicks |
| RT | Marcus Johnson |
| TE | Visanthe Shiancoe |
| WR | Bobby Wade |
| WR | Sidney Rice |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Erasmus James |
| LT | Kevin Williams |
| RT | Pat Williams |
| RE | Kenechi Udeze |
| LLB | Ben Leber |
| MLB | E.J. Henderson |
| RLB | Chad Greenway |
| LCB | Antoine Winfield |
| RCB | Cedric Griffin |
| SS | Darren Sharper |
| FS | Dwight Smith |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Chris Kluwe |
| K | Ryan Longwell |
| PR | Mewelde Moore |
| KR | Chandler Williams |

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 4 |
| Quarterbacks | 1 |
| Running Backs | 4 |
| Receivers | 2 |
| Defensive Line | 3 |
| Linebackers | 2 |
| Secondary | 2 |
| Special Teams | 2 |
| Management | 2 |

## Yo, Adrian!

With a scary mixture of youth at quarterback and wide receiver, the Vikings could turn to a ground-based attack and rookie rushing phenom Peterson of Oklahoma.

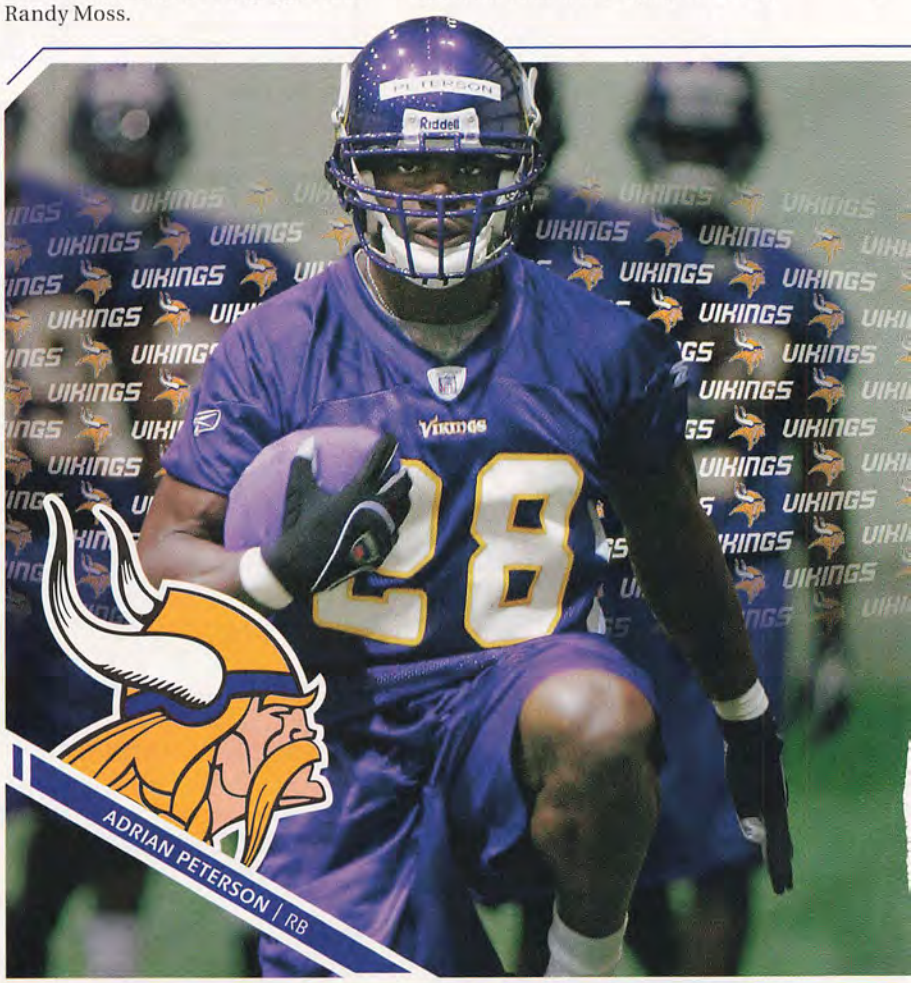
The difference between rebuilding and reloading a team can be a fine line, which the Vikings appear to be walking. Fortunately, that line doesn't involve their offensive and defensive lines, which still employ recognizable names.

The foundation of any team rests in the lines. Since Minnesota doesn't appear to have much else going for them outside of the foundation, Coach Brad Childress might be living in the basement—at least temporarily. The Vikings, of course, believe appearances are deceiving. Just because they don't have any established quarterbacks or receivers on their roster is no reason to wish for the return of Daunte Culpepper and Randy Moss.

The drafting of the University of Oklahoma's Adrian Peterson gave them the best rookie running back available and strengthens an area that was average, but it doesn't answer all the questions for a team that averaged only 18 points last season.

The Vikings started getting ready for 2007 when they benched veteran quarterback Brad Johnson and released receiver Marcus Robinson, who led the team in touchdown catches. Because Robinson caught only four TDs and Johnson threw only nine, their demotions were hardly devastating. It's just that most teams have alternatives in mind when they get rid of starters.

The offseason began with the release of middle linebacker Napoleon Harris,




TOM DAHLIN / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## THE BOOK ON ... Antoine Winfield *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"This guy is one of the all-time unsung players. Anybody who appreciates good football has got to appreciate this pure football player. And what makes his story all the more compelling is he's only about 5-8, although he's listed at 5-9, 180. He might be the best pure tackler in the NFL, bar none. If you need to demonstrate how to tackle, cut up a Winfield tape.

"In the Tampa-2 [defense], which they put in last year, he's the perfect corner to jam receivers and play close to the line of scrimmage. Because he's naturally aggressive, he sometimes gets beat in coverage and lacks top-end speed on some routes, but he's very competitive and his weaknesses are so overshadowed by his strengths. Class act, too."

leaving only high draft choice Troy Williamson to show for the 2005 Moss trade. Williamson was having so much trouble catching passes that the Vikings had to send him to a hand-eye coordination specialist.

Childress likes the possibilities presented by second-year man Tarvaris Jackson at quarterback. When somebody asks Childress who Tarvaris Jackson is, he brings up the development of Donovan McNabb, who was tutored by Childress in Philadelphia.

"We wouldn't be talking about [Jackson] if he didn't have physical tools—he has physical tools," Childress says. "I just believe he is going to incrementally grow. We've watched it here in the offseason program. You watch him around guys. You watch him direct guys. They have a good feel for him, and he continues to have a good feel for them."

Jackson was handed the reins not because of injury or because of what he showed in practice or because he was a highly paid first-round draft choice. He was given the job out of desperation after Johnson never could get Childress's offense rolling. Childress figured if the entire offense was on training wheels, a kid might as well be learning to steer.

With Brooks Bollinger, Drew Henson and seventh-rounder Tyler Thigpen behind him, Jackson's mandate is to learn fast. The Vikings have confidence because they passed up Brady Quinn in the draft for Peterson.

It will help Jackson if second-round pick Sidney Rice can catch better than the last University of South Carolina receiver drafted by the Vikings, Williamson. To underscore the need, the Vikings also chose receiver Aundrae Allison of East Carolina in the fifth round. The No. 1 receiver job is open for business. Travis Taylor ended up leading the team in receptions and yardage last season after both Marcus Robinson and Koren Robinson came up short, but the Vikings released Taylor, too, in their continuing search to replace Moss.

Bobby Wade was signed from Tennessee, where he was a slot receiver after Chicago released him. Veteran Billy McMullen is in the mix and Childress is also talking up second-year prospect Martin Nance, who caught four passes in 2006, and a former

### VIKINGS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Cris Carter** (1990-2001)
   *Ranks second all-time at his position in receptions (1,101) and touchdowns (130) and fourth in yardage (13,899).*
2. **Randy Moss** (1998-2004)
   *Moss is currently fifth all-time with 101 touchdown catches and will pass former teammate Cris Carter if he can grab 30 more.*
3. **Anthony Carter** (1985-93)
   *Became a Viking after the USFL folded and led the team in every receiving category from 1986 to 1990.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**PAT WILLIAMS**
defensive tackle

It's about time Pat Williams comes out from the shadow of Kevin Williams. Both are outstanding, but the big nose tackle is underrated and should be a Pro Bowl selection.

### DID YOU KNOW

Brad Childress was hired as head coach after spending four seasons as Philadelphia's offensive coordinator, but in his first year with Minnesota the Vikings' offense set team records for fewest first downs (272) and passing touchdowns (13) in a 16-game season.

The Vikings' defense gave up an NFL-low 61.6 rushing yards a game last season and allowed just 985 rushing yards, becoming the second team since 1970 (Baltimore Ravens, 2000) to surrender fewer than 1,000 yards in a season.

Kicker Ryan Longwell threw a touchdown pass and kicked the game-winning field goal in the 16-13 win against Carolina in Week Two, joining George Blanda as the only NFL players since 1970 to accomplish that feat.

### THE COUNT

| 3-5 | 282 | 303 |
|---|---|---|
| Minnesota's home record in 2006, its worst mark since 1984 when the team went 2-6. | Total points scored by the Vikings, the franchise's lowest single-season total since scoring 277 in 1993. | Carries by Chester Taylor in 2006, a franchise record. |

### 2007 SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 | vs. *Atlanta* | SEPT. 9 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 2 | @ *Detroit* | SEPT. 16 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 3 | @ *Kansas City* | SEPT. 23 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 4 | vs. *Green Bay* | SEPT. 30 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 5 | *OPEN DATE* | | |
| WEEK 6 | @ *Chicago* | OCT. 14 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 7 | @ *Dallas* | OCT. 21 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 8 | vs. *Philadelphia* | OCT. 28 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 9 | vs. *San Diego* | NOV. 4 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 10 | @ *Green Bay* | NOV. 11 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 11 | vs. *Oakland* | NOV. 18 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 12 | @ *New York Giants* | NOV. 25 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 13 | vs. *Detroit* | DEC. 2 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 14 | @ *San Francisco* | DEC. 9 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 15 | vs. *Chicago* | DEC. 17 | 8:30 |
| WEEK 16 | vs. *Washington* | DEC. 23 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 17 | @ *Denver* | DEC. 30 | 4:15 |

W SCORE L

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*Unfortunately, Randy Moss won't be coming back to Minnesota for the first time, but JaMarcus Russell should be playing by then and the Vikings can measure young quarterback Tarvaris Jackson against him.*

HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/11 | W | 19-16 | at Washington |
| 09/17 | W | 16-13 | Carolina |
| 09/24 | L | 16-19 | Chicago |
| 10/01 | L | 12-17 | at Buffalo |
| 10/08 | W | 26-17 | Detroit |
| 10/22 | W | 31-13 | at Seattle |
| 10/30 | L | 7-31 | New England |
| 11/05 | L | 3-9 | at San Francisco |
| 11/12 | L | 17-23 | Green Bay |
| 11/19 | L | 20-24 | at Miami |
| 11/26 | W | 31-26 | Arizona |
| 12/03 | L | 13-23 | at Chicago |
| 12/10 | W | 30-20 | at Detroit |
| 12/17 | L | 13-26 | New York Jets |
| 12/21 | L | 7-9 | at Green Bay |
| 12/31 | L | 21-41 | St. Louis |

WON 6, LOST 10

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C. Taylor | 303 | 1216 | 4.0 | 95t | 6 |
| Pinner | 43 | 190 | 4.4 | 21 | 3 |
| Moore | 24 | 131 | 5.5 | 15 | 0 |
| Fason | 18 | 99 | 5.5 | 15 | 1 |
| Brad Johnson | 29 | 82 | 2.8 | 10 | 1 |
| Jackson | 15 | 77 | 5.1 | 13 | 1 |
| Richardson | 5 | 12 | 2.4 | 3 | 0 |
| Bethel Johnson | 4 | 8 | 2.0 | 5 | 0 |
| T. Taylor | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| **Vikings** | 442 | 1820 | 4.1 | 95t | 12 |
| **Opponents** | 348 | 985 | 2.8 | 59t | 9 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T. Taylor | 57 | 651 | 11.4 | 36 | 3 |
| Moore | 46 | 468 | 10.2 | 50 | 1 |
| Wiggins | 46 | 386 | 8.4 | 24 | 1 |
| C. Taylor | 42 | 288 | 6.9 | 24 | 0 |
| Williamson | 37 | 455 | 12.3 | 46 | 0 |
| Robinson | 29 | 381 | 13.1 | 40t | 4 |
| McMullen | 23 | 307 | 13.3 | 40t | 2 |
| Richardson | 13 | 111 | 8.5 | 25 | 0 |
| Bethel Johnson | 9 | 156 | 17.3 | 40 | 0 |
| Dugan | 8 | 40 | 5.0 | 10 | 1 |
| Kleinsasser | 7 | 47 | 6.7 | 14 | 0 |
| Owens | 6 | 45 | 7.5 | 16t | 1 |
| Nance | 4 | 33 | 8.3 | 12 | 0 |
| Fason | 3 | 19 | 6.3 | 12 | 0 |
| Pinner | 2 | 15 | 7.5 | 8 | 0 |
| **Vikings** | 332 | 3402 | 10.2 | 50 | 13 |
| **Opponents** | 355 | 4015 | 11.3 | 82t | 15 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brad Johnson | 439 | 270 | 2750 | 9 | 15 |
| Jackson | 81 | 47 | 475 | 2 | 4 |
| Bollinger | 18 | 13 | 146 | 0 | 1 |
| Longwell | 1 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 0 |
| Moore | 1 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| **Vikings** | 540 | 332 | 3402 | 13 | 20 |
| **Opponents** | 599 | 355 | 4015 | 15 | 21 |

**SACKS**

Scott 5.5, K. Williams 5, R. Edwards 3, Henderson 3, Leber 3, Mitchell 3, Harris 2.5, Sharper 1, D. Smith 1, Thomas 1, P. Williams 1

VIKINGS 30, OPPONENTS 43

## DRAFT REPORT

Although it was not a position of urgent need, RB **Adrian Peterson** was simply too good to pass on. Teams clearly need two quality backs and the combination of Peterson and Chester Taylor could develop into one of the league's best. Wide receiver **Sidney Rice** has the skill set and fills a position of immediate need, but he must show better consistency. **Marcus McCauley** had the look of a first-round talent following his junior season with his size and speed, but did not play up to expectations as a senior and dropped to the third round. Undersized DE **Brian Robison** is a workout warrior who was limited by injuries as a senior and could stick as a pass-rush specialist and special teams standout. **Aundrae Allison** will also help in upgrading the league's worst wide receiver unit last season. **Rufus Alexander** was a big play linebacker for Oklahoma and offers outstanding value in the sixth round. **Tyler Thigpen** is a sleeper to watch behind QBs Tarvaris Jackson and Brooks Bollinger. Wide receiver **Chandler Williams** did not play as well as a senior, but had a very good career for Florida International. A 2008 third-round draft choice was also acquired from Denver.

GRADE **B+**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | Peterson, Adrian | RB | 6-2 | 218 | Oklahoma |
| 2 | 12 | Rice, Sidney | WR | 6-4 | 200 | South Carolina |
| 3 | 8 | McCauley, Marcus | CB | 6-1 | 205 | Fresno State |
| 4 | 3 | Robison, Brian | DE | 6-3 | 270 | Texas |
| 5 | 9 | Allison, Aundrae | WR | 6-1 | 202 | East Carolina |
| 6 | 2 | Alexander, Rufus | LB | 6-1 | 230 | Oklahoma |
| 7 | 7 | Thigpen, Tyler | QB | 6-3 | 220 | Coastal Carolina |
| 7 | 23 | Williams, Chandler | WR | 5-11 | 180 | Florida International |

practice-squad player in Seattle, Maurice Mann.

Tight end Jermaine Wiggins, who caught 46 passes last year, was let go in favor of former Giants backup Visanthe Shiancoe, who had 12 receptions in New York. Jim Kleinsasser, Richard Owens and Jeff Dugan also remain in the picture as tight end/fullback hybrids.

Chester Taylor's 1,200-yard season and four-yards-per-carry average means the running game is better off than the passing attack. What Peterson provides the offense is a home-run threat missing since the departure of Moss. Peterson claims he will have no problem with a troublesome collarbone break. Along with Georgia Tech receiver Calvin Johnson, drafted by Detroit, Peterson was head-and-shoulders above other prospects in his draft class.

Childress also has third-down back Mewelde Moore, plus Artose Pinner, Ciatrick Fason and second-year men Wendell Mathis and Naufahu Tahi. Childress is intrigued with the idea of the 254-pound Tahi pounding inside. Fullback Tony Richardson is coming off an injury at age 35.

The offensive line of tackles Bryant McKinnie and Marcus Johnson, guards Steve Hutchinson and Artis Hicks and center Matt Birk is solid, with second-year prospect Ryan Cook the third tackle as well as a backup center. But experienced backups Jason Whittle and Mike Rosenthal are gone, leaving Anthony Herrera as the top reserve at guard.

Leslie Frazier takes over as defensive coordinator after Mike Tomlin left to take the Pittsburgh head-coaching job. Frazier will stick primarily with the Tampa-2 look he helped Tony Dungy coach in Indianapolis and Tomlin emphasized in Minnesota. The Vikings finished eighth overall on defense last year and nobody stopped the run better.

Minnesota hopes to have the defensive front four to pull that off again,

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Vikings)*

"It takes guts to go into a season wondering what you've got at quarterback and receiver. Brad Childress has to be pretty confident in his future. They really haven't replaced either Daunte Culpepper or Randy Moss. The rest of the team has possibilities. [Rookie Adrian] Peterson is already the best running back in the division. The defensive line needs to figure out how to get a pass rush. Linebackers are still iffy. Offensive line is a little overrated but serviceable. In that division, they could win six games or 10 games and nobody would be surprised. I'm looking at their roster and I see a quarterback from Alabama State, Tarvaris Jackson, and one from Coastal Carolina, Tyler Thigpen. That takes guts."

and certainly has the tackles in Kevin Williams and Pat Williams, who are as good an inside tandem as there is in the league. They are so good that the Vikings only need to get just a bit more production out of their ends.

The starting ends are supposed to be Kenechi Udeze and Erasmus James, a pair of former first-round draft choices. But James spent most of last season on injured reserve and Udeze has also fought nagging injuries. Udeze didn't get a single sack last season, which is almost impossible for a starting end. Darrion Scott, who subbed for James and will again compete for a starting job, led the team with only 5.5 sacks. Ray Edwards and Jayme Mitchell had three sacks apiece as rookies, which is why fourth-round end Brian Robison will have a good chance to join the rotation. Williams and Williams are backed up by Spencer Johnson.

With Harris gone, the Vikings hope E.J. Henderson can move from the weakside back to the middle. He was blossoming on the weakside after struggling in the middle at the beginning of his career, so the switch back is a gamble. The return of last year's top draft choice, Chad Greenway, is crucial. He missed his entire rookie year after getting hurt in preseason, but is expected to replace Henderson on the weakside.

Ben Leber is the front-runner on the strongside. He and Henderson each displayed pass-rushing ability last season. Dontarrious Thomas, Rod Davis and Heath Farwell will compete with rookie Rufus Alexander and free-agent pickup Vinny Ciurciu from Carolina, where he led the Panthers in special-teams tackles but started no games at linebacker.

Antoine Winfield and Cedric Griffin are the corners, backed by third-round pick Marcus McCauley, Ronyell Whitaker, Charles Gordon and Dovonte Edwards. Winfield is about as good as they get, so the Vikings didn't hesitate to part with Fred Smoot. They signed free-agent safety Mike Doss from Indianapolis. Doss will compete for a starting job with Darren Sharper and Dwight Smith, with Greg Blue and Will Hunter in reserve.

Minnesota is undistinguished on special teams, where punter Chris Kluwe and kicker Ryan Longwell had average years. Draft pick Chandler Williams should replace departed kick returner Bethel Johnson opposite punt returner Moore, whose 10.1-yard average was one of the team's few highlights in 2006.

**FINAL GRADE**

**60**

STOCK REPORT: STEADY

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Bobby Wade**, WR (TEN)

*The desperate Vikings signed this Tennessee and Chicago castoff in hopes he can help rescue a receiving corps in dire need.*

- Vinny Ciurciu, LB (CAR)
- Visanthe Shiancoe, TE (NYG)
- Mike Doss, DB (IND)
- Cortez Hankton, WR (JAC)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Napoleon Harris, LB (KC)
- Brad Johnson, QB (DAL)
- Bethel Johnson, WR (PHI)
- Fred Smoot, CB (WAS)
- Jason Whittle, OT (BUF)
- Jermaine Wiggins, TE (JAC)
- Ross Kolodziej, DE (ARI)
- Mike Rosenthal, OT (MIA)
- Marcus Robinson, WR (DET)

> "We knew we needed explosive players on the offensive side of the football. And we got one of the best today."
>
> *—Coach Brad Childress on drafting RB Adrian Peterson*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 308.9 | 23 |
| Rushing | 113.8 | 16 |
| Passing | 195.2 | 18 |
| Scoring | 282 | 26 |
| Punt Returns | 9.8 | 9 |
| Kick Returns | 22.6 | 17 |
| Red Zone TD % | 45.2 | 22 |
| Total Defense | 300.2 | 8 |
| Against Rush | 61.6 | 1 |
| Against Pass | 238.6 | 31t |
| Points Allowed | 327 | 14 |
| Interceptions | 21 | 5 |
| Sacks | 30 | 25t |
| Turnover Diff. | +4 | 10t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 272 | 87 | 160 | 25 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 42 | 182 | 19 | 17 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 13 | 1 | 5 |

## VIKINGS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Bollinger, Brooks | QB | 6-1 | 205 | 11/15/1979 | 3 | Wisconsin |
| 2 | Henson, Drew | QB | 6-4 | 233 | 02/13/1980 | 1 | Michigan |
| 7 | Jackson, Tarvaris | QB | 6-2 | 232 | 04/21/1983 | 1 | Alabama State |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 78 | Birk, Matt | C | 6-4 | 309 | 07/23/1976 | 8 | Harvard |
| 62 | Cook, Ryan | C | 6-6 | 328 | 05/08/1983 | 1 | New Mexico |
| 64 | Herrera, Anthony | G | 6-2 | 315 | 06/14/1980 | 2 | Tennessee |
| 79 | Hicks, Artis | G | 6-4 | 335 | 11/28/1978 | 4 | Memphis |
| 76 | Hutchinson, Steve | G | 6-5 | 313 | 11/01/1977 | 6 | Michigan |
| 72 | Johnson, Marcus | T | 6-6 | 321 | 12/01/1981 | 2 | Mississippi |
| 46 | Loeffler, Cullen | C | 6-5 | 241 | 01/27/1981 | 3 | Texas |
| 74 | McKinnie, Bryant | T | 6-8 | 335 | 09/23/1979 | 5 | Miami (FL) |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | Fason, Ciatrick | RB | 6-0 | 207 | 12/29/1982 | 2 | Florida |
| 34 | Mathis, Wendell | RB | 5-10 | 215 | 09/28/1983 | 0 | Fresno State |
| 30 | Moore, Mewelde | RB | 5-11 | 209 | 07/24/1982 | 3 | Tulane |
| 22 | Pinner, Artose | RB | 5-10 | 232 | 01/05/1978 | 4 | Kentucky |
| 49 | Richardson, Tony | RB | 6-1 | 238 | 12/17/1971 | 12 | Auburn |
| 38 | Tahi, Naufahu | RB | 6-0 | 254 | 10/30/1981 | 0 | Brigham Young |
| 29 | Taylor, Chester | RB | 5-11 | 213 | 09/22/1979 | 5 | Toledo |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Carter, Jason | WR | 6-0 | 205 | 09/15/1982 | 1 | Texas A&M |
| 83 | Dugan, Jeff | TE | 6-4 | 258 | 04/08/1981 | 3 | Maryland |
| 16 | Hankton, Cortez | WR | 6-0 | 200 | 01/20/1981 | 4 | Texas Southern |
| 85 | Hymes, Randy | WR | 6-3 | 211 | 08/07/1979 | 3 | Grambling State |
| 40 | Kleinsasser, Jim | TE | 6-3 | 274 | 01/31/1977 | 8 | North Dakota |
| 12 | McMullen, Billy | WR | 6-4 | 215 | 03/08/1980 | 4 | Virginia |
| 15 | Nance, Martin | WR | 6-5 | 215 | 05/26/1983 | 1 | Miami (OH) |
| 45 | Owens, Richard | TE | 6-4 | 273 | 11/04/1980 | 3 | Louisville |
| 81 | Shiancoe, Visanthe | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 06/18/1980 | 4 | Morgan State |
| 84 | Spach, Stephen | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 07/18/1982 | 1 | Fresno State |
| 19 | Wade, Bobby | WR | 5-10 | 186 | 02/25/1981 | 4 | Arizona |
| 82 | Williamson, Troy | WR | 6-1 | 203 | 04/30/1983 | 2 | South Carolina |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 91 | Edwards, Ray | DE | 6-5 | 268 | 01/01/1985 | 1 | Purdue |
| 99 | James, Erasmus | DE | 6-4 | 266 | 11/04/1982 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 97 | Johnson, Spencer | DT | 6-3 | 286 | 12/12/1981 | 3 | Auburn |
| 92 | Mitchell, Jayme | DE | 6-6 | 285 | 03/15/1984 | 1 | Mississippi |
| 98 | Scott, Darrion | DE | 6-3 | 289 | 10/25/1981 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 90 | Smith, Khreem | DE | 6-4 | 250 | 07/07/1979 | 1 | Oklahoma State |
| 95 | Udeze, Kenechi | DE | 6-3 | 281 | 03/05/1983 | 3 | USC |
| 93 | Williams, Kevin | DT | 6-5 | 311 | 08/16/1980 | 4 | Oklahoma State |
| 94 | Williams, Pat | DT | 6-3 | 317 | 10/24/1972 | 10 | Texas A&M |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | Blue, Greg | S | 6-2 | 216 | 03/12/1982 | 1 | Georgia |
| 21 | Doss, Mike | S | 5-10 | 207 | 03/24/1981 | 4 | Ohio State |
| 36 | Edwards, Dovonte | CB | 6-0 | 182 | 10/17/1982 | 1 | N.C. State |
| 41 | Gordon, Charles | CB | 5-11 | 180 | 07/18/1984 | 1 | Kansas |
| 23 | Griffin, Cedric | CB | 6-0 | 203 | 11/11/1982 | 1 | Texas |
| 37 | Hawkins, Mike | CB | 6-1 | 180 | 07/15/1983 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 31 | Hunter, Will | S | 5-10 | 190 | 03/24/1979 | 2 | Syracuse |
| 34 | Patterson, Dimitri | CB | 5-11 | 196 | 06/18/1983 | 1 | Tuskegee |
| 42 | Sharper, Darren | S | 6-2 | 210 | 11/03/1975 | 10 | William & Mary |
| 24 | Smith, Dwight | S | 5-10 | 201 | 08/13/1978 | 6 | Akron |
| 27 | Whitaker, Ronyell | CB | 5-9 | 196 | 03/19/1979 | 2 | Virginia Tech |
| 25 | Williams, Tank | S | 6-3 | 223 | 06/30/1980 | 4 | Stanford |
| 26 | Winfield, Antoine | CB | 5-9 | 180 | 06/24/1977 | 8 | Ohio State |
| 41 | Wishom, Jerron | CB | 6-0 | 195 | 03/01/1982 | 1 | Louisiana Tech |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | Ciurciu, Vinny | LB | 6-0 | 235 | 05/02/1980 | 4 | Boston College |
| 59 | Farwell, Heath | LB | 6-0 | 235 | 12/31/1981 | 2 | San Diego State |
| 55 | Glenn, Jason | LB | 6-0 | 231 | 08/20/1979 | 6 | Texas A&M |
| 52 | Greenway, Chad | LB | 6-3 | 243 | 01/12/1983 | 0 | Iowa |
| 56 | Henderson, E.J. | LB | 6-1 | 245 | 08/03/1980 | 4 | Maryland |
| 51 | Leber, Ben | LB | 6-3 | 244 | 12/07/1978 | 5 | Kansas State |
| 54 | Thomas, Dontarrious | LB | 6-2 | 241 | 09/02/1980 | 3 | Auburn |

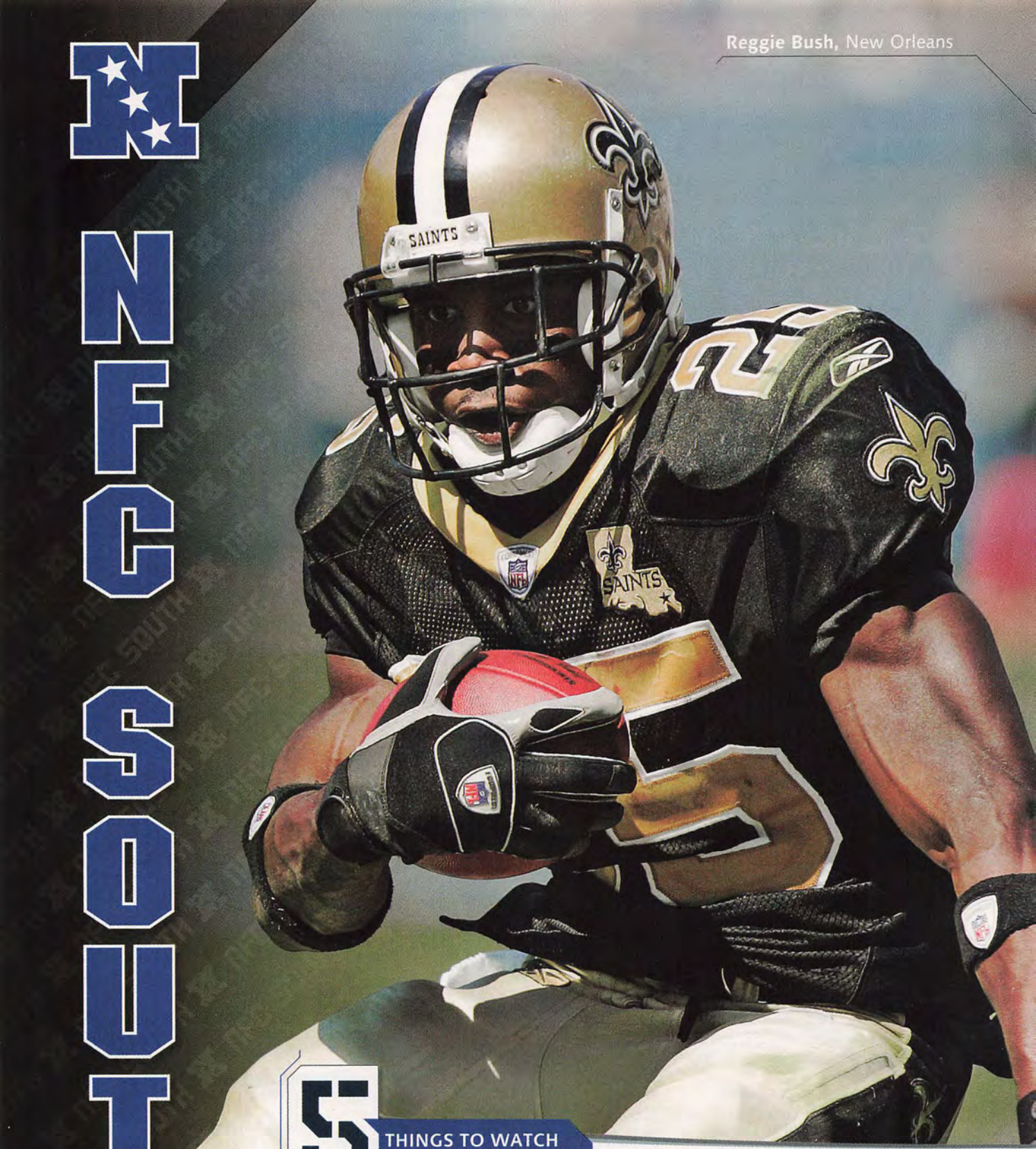
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Kluwe, Chris | P | 6-4 | 215 | 12/24/1981 | 2 | UCLA |
| 8 | Longwell, Ryan | K | 6-0 | 200 | 08/16/1974 | 10 | California |

**BRAD CHILDRESS**, HEAD COACH

**Karl Dunbar**, def. line; **Paul Ferraro**, special teams coord.; **Leslie Frazier**, def. coord.; **Jim Hueber**, asst. off. line; **Jimmie Johnson**, tight ends; **Pat Morris**, off. line; **Brian Murphy**, asst. special teams; **Fred Pagac**, linebackers; **Kevin Rogers**, quarterbacks; **George Stewart**, wide receivers; **Joe Woods**, def. backs

HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

# NFC SOUTH




**Reggie Bush,** New Orleans

## 5 THINGS TO WATCH

1. The health of Panthers middle linebacker Dan Morgan. When Morgan is on the field, he's as good as any linebacker in the game. Problem is, Morgan hasn't played a full season since he entered the league in 2001. Carolina's defense can be dominating when Morgan's healthy and ordinary when he's not.

2. Michael Vick and Bobby Petrino. If it seems like Vick is always surrounded by some sort of controversy, that's only because he is. Petrino brings a calming influence that predecessor Jim Mora Jr. lacked. That could create the kind of environment in which Vick can finally prosper.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

1 SAINTS | 162

2 PANTHERS | 166

3 FALCONS | 170

4 BUCCANEERS | 174

## Can Saints keep marching in topsy-turvy NFC South?

By Pat Yasinskas, *The Charlotte Observer*

If there has been one certainty in the short history of the NFC South, it's this: The division can turn upside down in a hurry.

Take the case of the 2005 Tampa Bay Buccaneers. They won the division and followed it up with a last-place finish. Or take the 2003 Carolina Panthers.

They went to the Super Bowl and didn't even make the playoffs in 2004.

That may be bad news for the New Orleans Saints, who went 10-6 and won the division last year. Or maybe it's just a chance for the Saints to continue their feel-good story in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and make history by becoming the first team to win NFC South titles in back-to-back seasons.

Even when factoring in the history of the division, you have to like New Orleans' chances to repeat. In his first season as a head coach anywhere, Sean Payton took over a 3-13 team that had been devastated by the flooding and uncertainty of 2005. Payton instantly brought a sense of order and discipline to the Saints and that's a big reason why the team made such a large turnaround.

As life slowly returns to normal in New Orleans, Payton and the Saints have given the city and the region something to draw people together. That should only continue as Payton's imprint on the franchise gets stronger.

Now, with a full offseason under his belt, Payton has done a good job of patching holes from last year with his kind of players. With quarterback Drew Brees, receiver Marques Colston and running backs Reggie Bush and Deuce McAllister, the Saints have the most firepower and consistency of any offense in the division. And Bush may have only brushed the surface of his magnificent potential in his rookie season.

Payton's offseason moves were aimed at a defense that struggled at times last year. If those moves work, the Saints might eliminate the only obstacle between them and back-to-back division titles—and a possible run deep into the playoffs.

There might not have been a more disappointing team than the Carolina Panthers last season. They were picked to win the Super Bowl by many, but stumbled miserably to an 8-8 mark.

Injuries were a major factor in Carolina's tumble, but most of those players are back and healthy. This is clearly, however, a make-or-break year for Coach John Fox and General Manager Marty Hurney, who have never put together consecutive winning seasons.

The heat is on Hurney and Fox, who made Dan Henning a scapegoat after last season and fired him as offensive coordinator. Henning was replaced by former Cleveland assistant Jeff Davidson, who served as the Browns' interim coordinator for the final 10 games of last season. There is also pressure on a defense that was without injured middle linebacker Dan Morgan most of last year to get back to its dominant form of 2005.

The man feeling the most heat in Charlotte might be quarterback Jake Delhomme. David Carr, the No. 1 pick in the 2002 draft, was signed to be the backup to Delhomme. But the presence of Carr means the Panthers won't hesitate to make a quarterback switch if Delhomme struggles.

Atlanta was only slightly less disappointing than Carolina last season. Despite a talented roster, the Falcons never came close to playing to their potential. That cost Jim Mora Jr. his job as coach.

Enter Bobby Petrino, the former Louisville coach, who will be the next in a line of coaches who have tried to get consistency out of ultra-athletic quarterback Michael Vick. Petrino's success at Louisville and his reputation for having a steady hand create some hope that Vick may finally be in the right hands. Mora and Dan Reeves were fired as the Falcons searched for the right formula for Vick. If the quarterback struggles this year, it won't be the coach who gets canned.

Fox isn't the only coach in the division on a hot seat. Since winning the Super Bowl in the 2002 season, Tampa Bay's Jon Gruden has had only one winning season and is coming off a disastrous 4-12 campaign. But no team was busier than the Buccaneers in the offseason.

That could have Tampa Bay poised for a major turnaround. A talented but aging defense led by linebacker Derrick Brooks and Ronde Barber will keep the Bucs competitive. Tampa also infused some much-needed youth into its defense by drafting Clemson defensive end Gaines Adams. But it will be up to an offense that is seemingly always rebuilding to turn things around. All eyes will be on the Buccaneer backfield, where Jeff Garcia and Chris Simms will fight for the quarterback job and running back Cadillac Williams looks to rebound from a sophomore slump.

RICH GABRIELSON

**3** Quarterback leashes. They'll be short in Carolina and Tampa Bay. Panthers Coach John Fox is on the hot seat and won't hesitate to turn things over to David Carr if Jake Delhomme struggles again. In Tampa Bay, the quarterback controversy will start in training camp as Jeff Garcia and Chris Simms battle for the starting job. Coach Jon Gruden has never hesitated to change quarterbacks, so the leash in Tampa Bay could be more of a yo-yo.

**4** Reggie Bush. The Saints brought their prized rookie along slowly last year and he still produced spectacular results. He'll be a much bigger factor in the offense this year, which could make life difficult for a lot of defenses.

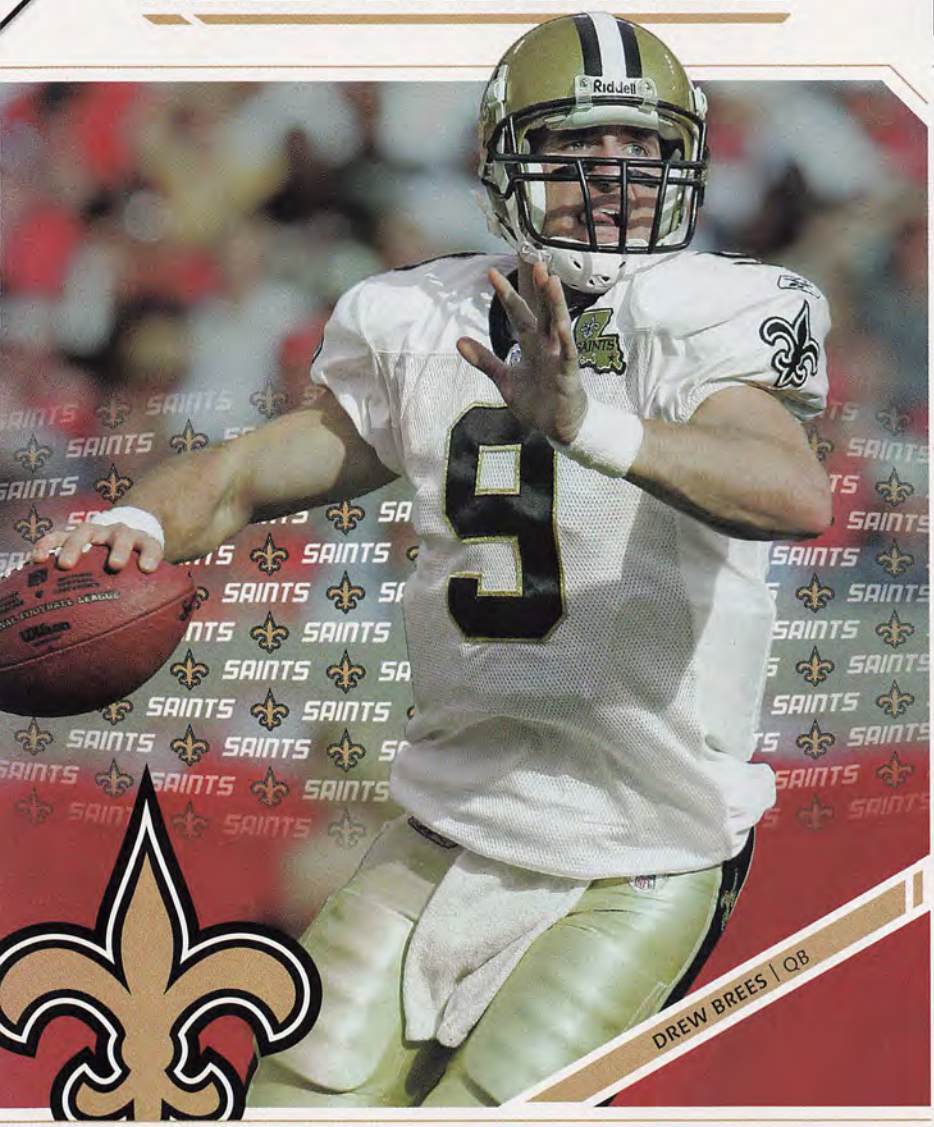
**5** Carolina's running game. The Panthers haven't been able to run the ball consistently since 2004. New Offensive Coordinator Jeff Davidson insists this will be a ball-control team, but running backs DeShaun Foster and DeAngelo Williams have never shown that they can grind out first downs.

# NEW ORLEANS

1

**NFC SOUTH**

2006 Record: 10-6
www.neworleanssaints.com
LOUISIANA SUPERDOME
Capacity: 69,703 Turf: Artificial
Tickets: 504-731-1700




## Marching in

After their storybook 2006 campaign, the Saints have all the pieces in place to finally reach the Super Bowl.

There's a touching photo on the cover of the New Orleans Saints 2006 media guide.

It's an image of a group of Saints players with their arms in the air, hands locked together. In the background is a photo of downtown New Orleans.

When the artwork was done, no one knew for sure how the Saints or the city would fare, but the illustration wound up precisely portraying how much a city and a team can mean to each other in extreme circumstances.

What happened to the Saints and New Orleans in 2006 was perhaps the feel-good story of the season. A year removed from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the Saints returned

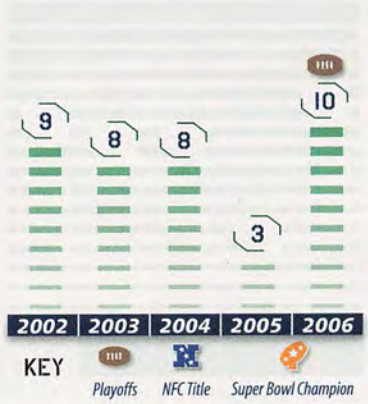
### SAINTS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1 **Joe Horn** (2000-06)
*Holds most of the Saints' single-season receiving records.*

2 **Eric Martin** (1985-93)
*Very quietly put up some big numbers (532 receptions, 7,854 yards, 48 TDs) in his nine seasons with New Orleans.*

3 **Danny Abramowicz** (1967-73)
*Spent seven losing years with the Saints, but led the league with 73 catches in 1969.*

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND




### PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| QB | Drew Brees |
| FB | Mike Karney |
| RB | Deuce McAllister |
| LT | Jammal Brown |
| LG | Jamar Nesbit |
| C | Jeff Faine |
| RG | Jahri Evans |
| RT | Jon Stinchcomb |
| TE | Eric Johnson |
| WR | Marques Colston |
| WR | Robert Meachem |

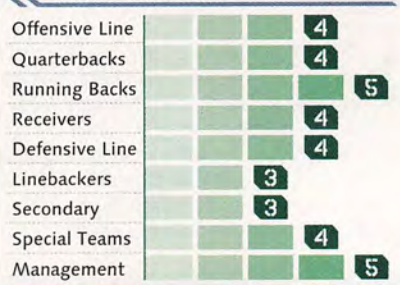
**DEFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| LE | Charles Grant |
| LT | Hollis Thomas |
| RT | Brian Young |
| RE | Will Smith |
| LLB | Scott Fujita |
| MLB | Mark Simoneau |
| RLB | Scott Shanle |
| LCB | Mike McKenzie |
| RCB | Jason David |
| SS | Roman Harper |
| FS | Josh Bullocks |

**SPECIAL TEAMS**

| | |
|---|---|
| P | Steve Weatherford |
| K | Olindo Mare |
| PR | Michael Lewis |
| KR | Michael Lewis |

### POWER RATINGS




STEVE JACOBSON

to their battered city and lifted New Orleans on their shoulders as they surprised the world by going from a 3-13 team to NFC South champions and a berth in the NFC Championship Game.

Now, there's only one way for the sequel to be better than the original. It would be if the Saints get to their first Super Bowl in franchise history.

Two years after New Orleans was playing home games in San Antonio and Baton Rouge, La., it could happen. Everywhere you look, the Saints suddenly have stability, something that's been lacking throughout the franchise's existence.

Twenty-one of the 22 starters from last year remain on the roster. Sean Payton is only going to get better in his second season as head coach and General Manager Mickey Loomis has been busy locking up some key players with contract extensions.

The stability trickles down from Payton and Loomis to the team and nowhere is the stability more evident than at quarterback. After some rocky seasons in San Diego, Drew Brees came in last year and looked like he'd been running the New Orleans offense forever.

Brees led the NFC with a 96.2 quarterback rating and completed 64.3 percent of his passes. More importantly, he was a master at reading defenses and calling audibles. After years of watching Aaron Brooks stumble, Saints fans got to see one of the most solid seasons by a quarterback in NFL history as Brees threw for an NFL-high 4,418 yards.

There's no reason to believe Brees will suffer any sort of drop-off in production, because he's surrounded by an outstanding supporting cast. New Orleans' offensive skill-position players might be the best group in the league. You want proof? Reggie Bush, who might be as talented as any player in the league, isn't even a starter because the Saints still have Deuce McAllister at running back.

McAllister and Bush give New Orleans the league's premier one-two punch. Last season, McAllister's inside running and Bush's outside running gave defenses fits. Payton wants his tailbacks to be a little more interchangeable this year, which means increased playing time for Bush.

The Saints barely began to discover how to use all of Bush's talents last year. He'll be asked to run inside more this year and will be used even more in the passing game, where he caught 88 passes last season. McAllister's role won't diminish either, but New Orleans will find more ways to get the two backs on the field at the same time. The Saints also used a draft pick on Ohio State's Antonio Pittman, who could work his way into the rotation as a short-yardage runner. An unsung hero in the success of Bush and McAllister is fullback Mike Karney, who excels as a lead blocker.

The one big change on offense is the departure of Joe Horn, who had been a fixture at wide receiver for seven years. But Horn became expendable because the Saints discovered a new No. 1 receiver last year when they used a seventh-round pick in the 2006 draft on little-known Hofstra player Marques Colston.

## DRAFT REPORT

Not picking until No. 27 overall, the Saints were able to add one of the draft's best receivers in **Robert Meachem**. The former Tennessee wideout will ease the free-agency loss of Joe Horn in the passing game. **Usama Young** was a fast-rising, but inconsistent, cornerback out of Kent State who was a bit of a reach in the third round, considering Marcus McCauley and Daymeion Hughes were still available. **Andy Alleman** is an athletic pure guard who will eventually replace Jamar Nesbit. **Antonio Pittman** was an outstanding pick in Round Four, but will find himself in a very crowded backfield with Deuce McAllister, Reggie Bush and Aaron Stecker. New Orleans took two of the fast-rising small college prospects on the second day in former Towson OT **Jermon Bushrod** and former Wingate CB **David Jones**. Both could have a hard time making the roster. **Marvin Mitchell** is another practice squad candidate. Overall, the Saints' draft is a bit disappointing as they failed to address needs at tight end, the defensive line and backup quarterback.

**GRADE** C

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 27 | Meachem, Robert | WR | 6-0 | 215 | Tennessee |
| 3 | 2 | Young, Usama | CB | 5-11 | 189 | Kent State |
| 3 | 25 | Alleman, Andy | G | 6-4 | 295 | Akron |
| 4 | 8 | Pittman, Antonio | RB | 5-11 | 195 | Ohio State |
| 4 | 26 | Bushrod, Jermon | T | 6-5 | 325 | Towson |
| 5 | 8 | Jones, David | CB | 6-1 | 190 | Wingate |
| 7 | 10 | Mitchell, Marvin | LB | 6-3 | 235 | Tennessee |

### DID YOU KNOW

In 2007, the Saints will try to become the first NFC South champion to post a winning record the following season.

Reggie Bush became the first rookie to record at least 500 or more rushing (565) and receiving (742) yards since Edgerrin James did so for Indianapolis in 1999.

Seventh-round selection Marques Colston's 70 receptions last season were the most all-time for a rookie wide receiver drafted in the third round or later.

### THE BOOK ON ... *Drew Brees*

*(how a rival sizes him up)*

"With the possible exception of Peyton Manning, I don't think there's a smarter quarterback in the game than Drew Brees. I always knew he was a smart quarterback, but I didn't realize just how smart until I saw him run that offense last year. He ran it to perfection. Having him at quarterback is like having your offensive coordinator on the field. He sees everything in a defense. He's got a lot of weapons and he does a great job of spreading the ball around."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1 @ *Indianapolis***
SEPT. 6 | 8:30
**MUST-SEE GAME**
*The Saints will get a chance to find out right away if they truly are Super Bowl contenders. They open the season at Indianapolis and there's no greater test than playing the defending Super Bowl champion.*
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 2 @ *Tampa Bay***
SEPT. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 3 vs. *Tennessee***
SEPT. 24 | 8:30
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 4 *OPEN DATE***

**WEEK 5 vs. *Carolina***
OCT. 7 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 6 @ *Seattle***
OCT. 14 | 8:15
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 7 vs. *Atlanta***
OCT. 21 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 8 @ *San Francisco***
OCT. 28 | 4:15
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 9 vs. *Jacksonville***
NOV. 4 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 10 vs. *St. Louis***
NOV. 11 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 11 @ *Houston***
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 12 @ *Carolina***
NOV. 25 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 13 vs. *Tampa Bay***
DEC. 2 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 14 @ *Atlanta***
DEC. 10 | 8:30
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 15 vs. *Arizona***
DEC. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 16 vs. *Philadelphia***
DEC. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 17 @ *Chicago***
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 19-14 | at Cleveland |
| 09/17 | W | 34-27 | at Green Bay |
| 09/25 | W | 23-3 | Atlanta |
| 10/01 | L | 18-21 | at Carolina |
| 10/08 | W | 24-21 | Tampa Bay |
| 10/15 | W | 27-24 | Philadelphia |
| 10/29 | L | 22-35 | Baltimore |
| 11/05 | W | 31-14 | at Tampa Bay |
| 11/12 | L | 31-38 | at Pittsburgh |
| 11/19 | L | 16-31 | Cincinnati |
| 11/26 | W | 31-13 | at Atlanta |
| 12/03 | W | 34-10 | San Francisco |
| 12/10 | W | 42-17 | at Dallas |
| 12/17 | L | 10-16 | Washington |
| 12/24 | W | 30-7 | at New York Giants |
| 12/31 | L | 21-31 | Carolina |

**WON 10, LOST 6**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| McAllister | 244 | 1057 | 4.3 | 57 | 10 |
| Bush | 155 | 565 | 3.6 | 18 | 6 |
| Karney | 11 | 33 | 3.0 | 8 | 1 |
| Brees | 42 | 32 | 0.8 | 16 | 0 |
| Branch | 10 | 29 | 2.9 | 9 | 0 |
| Henderson | 2 | 14 | 7.0 | 11t | 1 |
| McAfee | 3 | 12 | 4.0 | 6t | 1 |
| Stecker | 4 | 11 | 2.8 | 4 | 0 |
| Copper | 1 | 8 | 8.0 | 8 | 0 |
| **Saints** | 472 | 1761 | 3.7 | 57 | 19 |
| **Opponents** | 418 | 2063 | 4.9 | 77t | 10 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bush | 88 | 742 | 8.4 | 74 | 2 |
| Colston | 70 | 1038 | 14.8 | 86t | 8 |
| Horn | 37 | 679 | 18.4 | 72t | 4 |
| Henderson | 32 | 745 | 23.3 | 76t | 5 |
| McAllister | 30 | 198 | 6.6 | 24 | 0 |
| Copper | 23 | 385 | 16.7 | 48t | 3 |
| Stecker | 19 | 190 | 10.0 | 48 | 0 |
| Campbell | 18 | 164 | 9.1 | 33 | 0 |
| Karney | 15 | 96 | 6.4 | 12 | 2 |
| Miller | 14 | 129 | 9.2 | 22 | 0 |
| Conwell | 8 | 57 | 7.1 | 15 | 1 |
| Jones | 6 | 108 | 18.0 | 41 | 1 |
| Branch | 5 | 14 | 2.8 | 7t | 1 |
| Owens | 4 | 44 | 11.0 | 25 | 0 |
| Lawrie | 1 | 17 | 17.0 | 17 | 0 |
| McIntyre | 1 | 10 | 10.0 | 10 | 0 |
| L. Moore | 1 | 10 | 10.0 | 10 | 0 |
| **Saints** | 372 | 4626 | 12.4 | 86t | 27 |
| **Opponents** | 267 | 3122 | 11.7 | 60t | 26 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brees | 554 | 356 | 4418 | 26 | 11 |
| Martin | 24 | 16 | 208 | 1 | 1 |
| Bush | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Horn | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Saints** | 580 | 372 | 4626 | 27 | 13 |
| **Opponents** | 474 | 267 | 3122 | 26 | 11 |

**SACKS**

Smith 10.5, Grant 6, Young 5.5, Shanle 4, Fujita 3.5, H. Thomas 3.5, Cooper 1, Harper 1, Lake 1, Simoneau 1, Whitehead 1

**SAINTS 38, OPPONENTS 23**

All Colston did as a rookie was catch 70 passes for 1,038 yards and eight touchdowns. The Saints were thinking Devery Henderson or Terrance Copper could handle the No. 2 receiver job, but that changed when New Orleans was able to land Tennessee receiver Robert Meachem in the draft. He has excellent size and should be able to make an immediate contribution as a possession receiver. Meachem will start opposite Colston, while Copper and Henderson will compete for the No. 3 role.

There's one more new target in the passing game. That's Eric Johnson, a free agent brought in from San Francisco to upgrade the tight end spot. All those skill-position players should benefit from playing behind an offensive line that has developed strong continuity and chemistry.

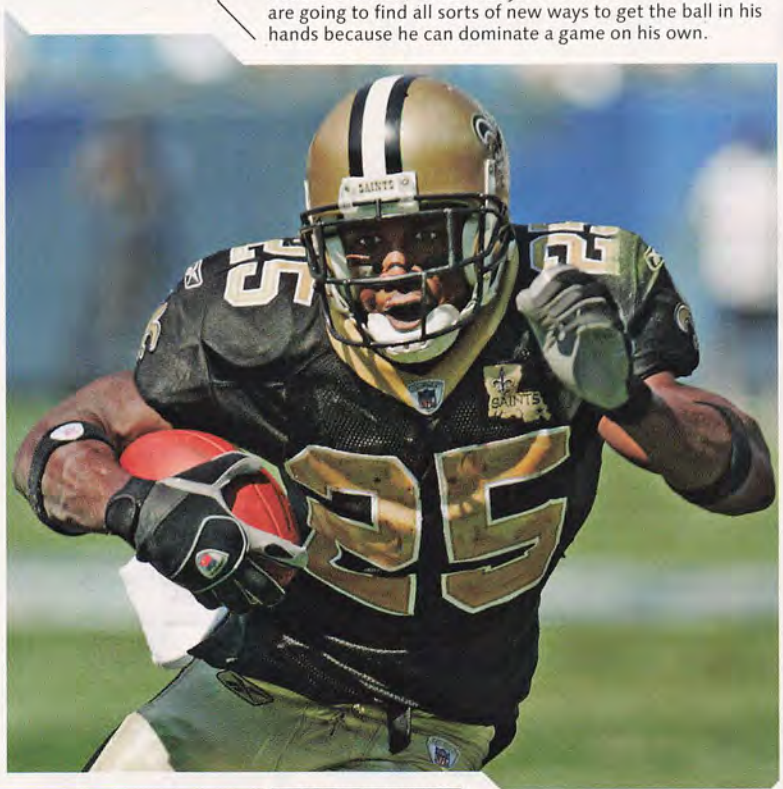
Left tackle Jammal Brown, who started coming into his own last year, is the only player on the line with elite talent, but guards Jamar Nesbit and Jahri Evans, center Jeff Faine and right tackle Jon Stinchcomb play very well as a unit and are capable of opening holes for Bush and McAllister and protecting Brees.

New Orleans' defense wasn't quite as efficient as the offense last year, but the Saints hope to get better. They ranked No. 11 in total defense (23rd against the run, third against the pass). Their biggest offseason move was the signing of cornerback Jason David, a restricted free agent from Indianapolis who'll start

## BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**REGGIE BUSH**
running back

It might seem strange to consider Bush as a potential breakout player because he came into the league with so much hype and had a very good rookie year. But the potential is there for Bush to have a far greater impact than last season, which was just a start for him. The Saints are going to find all sorts of new ways to get the ball in his hands because he can dominate a game on his own.



RICH GABRIELSON

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 391.5 | 1 | Total Defense | 307.3 | 11 |
| Rushing | 110.1 | 19 | Against Rush | 128.9 | 23 |
| Passing | 281.4 | 1 | Against Pass | 178.4 | 3 |
| Scoring | 413 | 5 | Points Allowed | 322 | 13 |
| Punt Returns | 7.3 | 28 | Interceptions | 11 | 28t |
| Kick Returns | 23.0 | 14 | Sacks | 38 | 12t |
| Red Zone TD % | 54.7 | 11 | Turnover Diff. | -4 | 22 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 330 | 99 | 207 | 24 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 53 | 248 | 29 | 15 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | 27 | 1 | 0 |

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Saints)*

"The one thing I worry about with this team is that some of the younger players might just assume that they're going to pick up right where they left off last year. You can't take anything for granted in this league and they have to make sure they bring the same emotion and work ethic as they did last year. [Sean] Payton's got to keep reminding them of that and some of the veteran leaders, like [Drew] Brees and [Deuce] McAllister, have to set a good example for the younger guys. ...

"One thing I like about this team is that they've developed some pretty strong leaders and that was something they always seemed to lack when [former Coach] Jim Haslett was there. ...

"They still don't have a dominant linebacker, but they've got a bunch of very capable guys and they're kind of protected because they're behind a good defensive line and a secondary that should be a lot better."

right away opposite Mike McKenzie. The Saints also signed free-agent safety Kevin Kaesviharn from Cincinnati and he'll challenge Josh Bullocks for the starting free safety job. With Fred Thomas and either Bullocks or Kaesviharn in a backup role, the Saints will have a lot more depth and flexibility in their secondary than last season.

The defensive front will remain pretty much the same, with ends Charles Grant and Will Smith leading a solid pass rush after combining for 16.5 sacks last year. Defensive tackles Brian Young and Hollis Thomas provide a solid interior, while veteran Willie Whitehead will rotate in as both a tackle and an end.

The Saints are looking for improvement out of the linebacking corps, where Brian Simmons was brought in as a free agent to compete with Mark Simoneau in the middle. Scott Shanle returns at weakside and Scott Fujita at strongside.

One area where the Saints will have some major changes is special teams, where they added two veterans to help the kicking game in punter Chris Hanson and kicker Olindo Mare. Hanson will compete with Steve Weatherford. Michael Lewis remains an explosive return man, but Bush can still be a threat on punts.

The roster stability along with a few upgrades make the Saints the favorite in the NFC South. If the offense can come up with output similar to last year and the run defense improves even a little, New Orleans could take the next step and challenge for the Super Bowl.

The schedule will be tougher than last year, however, and the Saints no longer will be able to surprise teams.

**FINAL GRADE**

**93**

**STOCK REPORT** ▲ UP

HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

## THE COUNT

**78**

Points the Saints scored in the last two minutes of either half last year, the most in the NFL.

**96.2**

Drew Brees' passer rating since the start of the 2004 season, second to Peyton Manning (108.5) among quarterbacks with at least 1,000 attempts during that span.

**13**

Consecutive wins for New Orleans (including postseason) when Deuce McAllister rushes for at least 65 yards.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Jason David,** CB (IND)

*The signing of cornerback Jason David as a restricted free agent from Indianapolis provides a huge upgrade for the secondary. David is much more solid in coverage than Fred Thomas, who can play the nickel-back role.*

- Brian Simmons, LB (CIN)
- Eric Johnson, TE (SF)
- Kevin Kaesviharn, DB (CIN)
- Olindo Mare, K (trade, MIA)
- David Patten, WR (WAS)
- Chris Hanson, P (JAC)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Montrae Holland, OG (DEN)
- Danny Clark, LB (HOU)
- Joe Horn, WR (ATL)
- Terrence Melton, LB (CAR)
- Omar Stoutmire, DB (WAS)
- Bryan Scott, DB (TEN)
- Michael Haynes, DE (NYJ)
- Curtis Deloatch, DB (CAR)
- Billy Cundiff, K (ATL)

## SAINTS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Brees, Drew | QB | 6-0 | 209 | 01/15/1979 | 6 | Purdue |
| 11 | Fife, Jason | QB | 6-4 | 226 | 01/23/1981 | 1 | Oregon |
| 10 | Martin, Jamie | QB | 6-2 | 205 | 02/08/1970 | 8 | Weber State |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 60 | Archibald, Ben | T | 6-3 | 320 | 08/26/1978 | 1 | Brigham Young |
| 70 | Brown, Jammal | T | 6-6 | 313 | 03/30/1981 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 73 | Evans, Jahri | G | 6-4 | 318 | 08/22/1983 | 1 | Bloomsburg |
| 52 | Faine, Jeff | C | 6-3 | 291 | 04/06/1981 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 76 | Goodwin, Jonathan | G | 6-3 | 318 | 12/02/1978 | 5 | Michigan |
| 47 | Houser, Kevin | C | 6-2 | 252 | 08/23/1977 | 7 | Ohio State |
| 75 | Mayberry, Jermane | G | 6-4 | 325 | 08/29/1973 | 10 | TX. A&M-Kingsville |
| 67 | Nesbit, Jamar | G | 6-4 | 328 | 12/17/1976 | 8 | South Carolina |
| 79 | Petitti, Rob | T | 6-6 | 327 | 05/21/1982 | 2 | Pittsburgh |
| 75 | Sims, Wes | G | 6-4 | 317 | 04/08/1981 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 78 | Stinchcomb, Jon | T | 6-5 | 315 | 08/27/1979 | 3 | Georgia |
| 64 | Strief, Zach | T | 6-7 | 349 | 09/22/1983 | 1 | Northwestern |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | Branch, Jamaal | RB | 6-0 | 225 | 01/30/1981 | 1 | Colgate |
| 25 | Bush, Reggie | RB | 6-0 | 203 | 03/02/1985 | 1 | USC |
| 40 | Dudley, Kevin | RB | 6-0 | 238 | 01/02/1982 | 2 | Michigan |
| 44 | Karney, Mike | RB | 5-11 | 258 | 07/06/1981 | 3 | Arizona State |
| 26 | McAllister, Deuce | RB | 6-1 | 232 | 12/27/1978 | 6 | Mississippi |
| 27 | Stecker, Aaron | RB | 5-10 | 213 | 11/13/1975 | 7 | Western Illinois |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 80 | Campbell, Mark | TE | 6-6 | 260 | 12/06/1975 | 7 | Michigan |
| 12 | Colston, Marques | WR | 6-4 | 231 | 06/05/1983 | 1 | Hofstra |
| 18 | Copper, Terrance | WR | 6-0 | 201 | 03/12/1982 | 3 | East Carolina |
| 19 | Henderson, Devery | WR | 5-11 | 200 | 03/26/1982 | 3 | LSU |
| 82 | Johnson, Eric | TE | 6-3 | 252 | 09/15/1979 | 4 | Yale |
| 87 | Johnson, Robert | TE | 6-6 | 278 | 06/20/1980 | 2 | Auburn |
| 89 | Jones, Jamal | WR | 5-11 | 205 | 04/24/1981 | 2 | North Carolina A&T |
| 84 | Lewis, Michael | WR | 5-8 | 173 | 11/14/1971 | 6 | None |
| 83 | Miller, Billy | TE | 6-3 | 253 | 04/24/1977 | 7 | USC |
| 16 | Moore, Lance | WR | 5-9 | 177 | 08/31/1983 | 1 | Toledo |
| 86 | Owens, John | TE | 6-3 | 255 | 01/10/1980 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 81 | Patten, David | WR | 5-10 | 190 | 08/19/1974 | 10 | Western Carolina |
| 84 | Ridgeway, Dante | WR | 6-1 | 200 | 04/18/1984 | 1 | Ball State |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 97 | Cooper, Josh | DE | 6-3 | 261 | 12/05/1980 | 2 | Mississippi |
| 94 | Grant, Charles | DE | 6-3 | 290 | 09/03/1978 | 5 | Georgia |
| 96 | Lake, Antwan | DT | 6-4 | 308 | 07/10/1979 | 4 | West Virginia |
| 77 | Leisle, Rodney | DT | 6-3 | 315 | 02/05/1981 | 3 | UCLA |
| 93 | Ninkovich, Rob | DE | 6-2 | 252 | 02/01/1984 | 1 | Purdue |
| 91 | Smith, Will | DE | 6-3 | 282 | 07/04/1981 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 99 | Thomas, Hollis | DT | 6-0 | 306 | 01/10/1974 | 10 | Northern Illinois |
| 90 | Villarreal, Brandon | DT | 6-2 | 289 | 06/01/1983 | 0 | Purdue |
| 98 | Whitehead, Willie | DE | 6-3 | 300 | 01/26/1973 | 8 | Auburn |
| 66 | Young, Brian | DT | 6-2 | 298 | 07/08/1977 | 7 | UTEP |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | Bellamy, Jay | S | 5-11 | 200 | 07/08/1972 | 13 | Rutgers |
| 29 | Bullocks, Josh | S | 6-1 | 207 | 02/28/1983 | 2 | Nebraska |
| 21 | Craft, Jason | CB | 5-10 | 187 | 02/13/1976 | 8 | Colorado State |
| 42 | David, Jason | CB | 5-8 | 180 | 06/12/1982 | 3 | Washington State |
| 37 | Gleason, Steve | S | 5-11 | 212 | 03/19/1977 | 7 | Washington State |
| 28 | Groce, DeJuan | CB | 5-10 | 191 | 02/17/1980 | 4 | Nebraska |
| 41 | Harper, Roman | S | 6-1 | 200 | 12/11/1982 | 1 | Alabama |
| 43 | Kaesviharn, Kevin | S | 6-1 | 196 | 08/29/1976 | 6 | Augustana (SD) |
| 34 | McKenzie, Mike | CB | 6-0 | 194 | 04/26/1976 | 8 | Memphis |
| 32 | Phillips, Anwar | CB | 6-0 | 187 | 10/25/1982 | 0 | Penn State |
| 22 | Thomas, Fred | CB | 5-9 | 185 | 09/11/1973 | 11 | Tennessee-Martin |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 54 | Evans, Troy | LB | 6-3 | 243 | 12/03/1977 | 5 | Cincinnati |
| 56 | Fincher, Alfred | LB | 6-1 | 238 | 08/15/1983 | 2 | Connecticut |
| 55 | Fujita, Scott | LB | 6-5 | 250 | 04/28/1979 | 5 | California |
| 58 | Shanle, Scott | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 11/23/1979 | 4 | Nebraska |
| 51 | Simmons, Brian | LB | 6-3 | 244 | 06/21/1975 | 9 | North Carolina |
| 53 | Simoneau, Mark | LB | 6-0 | 245 | 01/16/1977 | 7 | Kansas State |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Chris Hanson | P | 6-2 | 202 | 10/25/1976 | 7 | Marshall |
| 2 | Mare, Olindo | K | 5-11 | 190 | 06/06/1973 | 10 | Syracuse |
| 7 | Weatherford, Steve | P | 6-3 | 215 | 12/17/1982 | 1 | Illinois |

**SEAN PAYTON,** HEAD COACH

**Gary Gibbs,** def. coord.; **Doug Marrone,** off. coord./off. line; **John Bonamego,** special teams coord.; **Joe Vitt,** asst. head coach/linebackers; **George Henshaw,** senior off. asst./running backs; **Dennis Allen,** asst. def. line; **Pete Carmichael Jr.,** quarterbacks; **Tom Hayes,** def. backs; **Marion Hobby,** def. line; **Curtis Johnson,** wide receivers; **Terry Malone,** tight ends; **Greg McMahon,** asst. special teams; **Tony Oden,** def. asst./secondary

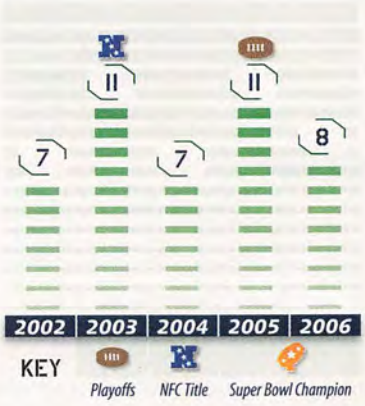
# CAROLINA

# 2

**NFC SOUTH**

2006 Record: 8-8
www.panthers.com
BANK OF AMERICA STADIUM
Capacity: 73,298 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 704-358-7800

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND




## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Jake Delhomme |
| FB | Brad Hoover |
| RB | DeAngelo Williams |
| LT | Travelle Wharton |
| LG | Mike Wahle |
| C | Justin Hartwig |
| RG | Geoff Hangartner |
| RT | Jordan Gross |
| TE | Michael Gaines |
| WR | Steve Smith |
| WR | Dwayne Jarrett |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Julius Peppers |
| LT | Maake Kemoeatu |
| RT | Kris Jenkins |
| RE | Mike Rucker |
| LLB | Thomas Davis |
| MLB | Dan Morgan |
| RLB | Jon Beason |
| LCB | Chris Gamble |
| RCB | Ken Lucas |
| SS | Deke Cooper |
| FS | Mike Minter |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Jason Baker |
| K | John Kasay |
| PR | Ryne Robinson |
| KR | Ryne Robinson |

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 3 |
| Quarterbacks | 3 |
| Running Backs | 3 |
| Receivers | 4 |
| Defensive Line | 4 |
| Linebackers | 4 |
| Secondary | 3 |
| Special Teams | 3 |
| Management | 5 |

## What's the rush?

Coming off a season that fell short of all expectations, the Panthers look to get back on track by producing more from their running game.

The window, which seemed so wide-open a year ago, is closing quickly.

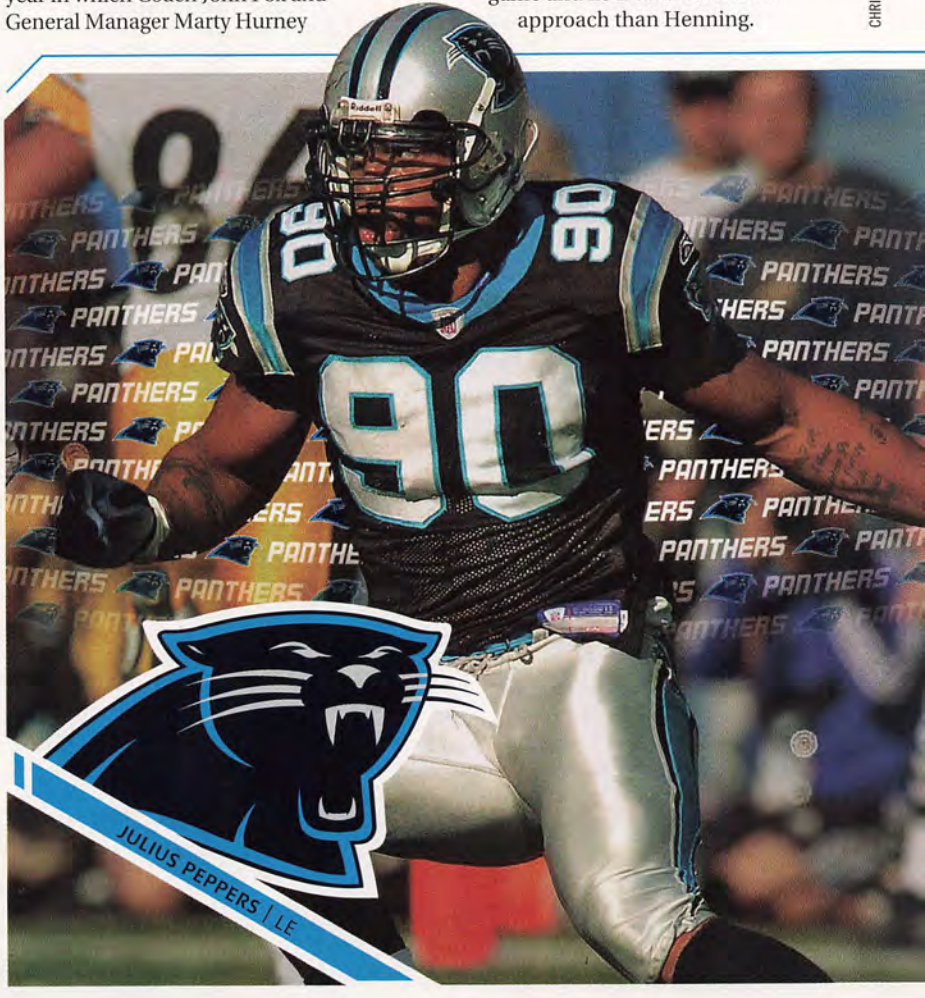
The question is, can the Carolina Panthers jump through one more time before it shuts for good?

They're aging fast at some key positions and are entirely too young and inexperienced at some others. But they still have defensive end Julius Peppers and wide receiver Steve Smith and that's enough to make the Panthers competitive with just about anyone.

But last year's disappointing 8-8 campaign showed Smith and Peppers can carry this team only so far and the supporting cast has to improve. In a year in which Coach John Fox and General Manager Marty Hurney will be on the hot seat if the Panthers don't win, there will be plenty of major changes on both sides of the ball.

The biggest will come on offense, where the Panthers parted ways with veteran coordinator Dan Henning. Viewed as too conservative by fans, Henning lost his job because the Panthers couldn't run the ball with any consistency.

Jeff Davidson, who spent the last two years with Cleveland and was the right-hand man to Notre Dame Coach Charlie Weis when he was offensive coordinator of the Patriots, is taking over for Henning. Davidson's first job is to establish a consistent running game and he'll take a different approach than Henning.




CHRIS BERNACCHI / SPORTPICS

## THE BOOK ON ... Julius Peppers *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Some people say he takes plays off, but that's not true. It's just that Peppers is so talented that it looks like he should dominate on every play. He's always had moments where he looks incredible as a pass rusher, but he's become a more consistent player in recent years. He plays the run well and he can do things like chase down a running back or drop into coverage better than any end in the league. He may not have as good a supporting cast as he did earlier in his career and maybe it's time for him to step things up a little bit more."

The Panthers, who had been a power-running team in five seasons under Henning, will switch to a zone-blocking scheme. That system is better suited to their personnel on the offensive line, where tackles Jordan Gross and Travelle Wharton and guard Mike Wahle are known more for their athleticism and quickness than their power. The zone blocking should also benefit running backs DeAngelo Williams and DeShaun Foster, who weren't very successful running between the tackles last year.

The success of Williams and Foster will depend largely on how the line adjusts to the new scheme. Gross will switch back to his more natural spot at right tackle after spending most of last season at left tackle following a knee injury to Wharton. But Wharton is healthy and ready to step back in next to Wahle, which should give the line a very solid left side.

The team will also get center Justin Hartwig back from an injury that forced him to miss almost all of last year. The biggest question mark is at right guard, where Evan Mathis was the starter in 2006 but will have to fight off a training-camp challenge from Geoff Hangartner, who filled in nicely for Hartwig at center last year. Second-round pick Ryan Kalil was an All-America center at USC, but can also play guard. The depth on the line should be much better, with the loser of the Hangartner/Mathis battle being the top interior backup and Jeremy Bridges, a starter at right tackle most of last season, the first tackle off the bench.

That line should be able to open holes for Williams and Foster, who should now be able to take advantage of their speed on stretch plays that cater to their cutback running. Foster was the feature back last year, but Williams looked far more promising in his limited opportunities. It's likely Williams will get a chance to move ahead of Foster because he's a more explosive runner and also has the skills to make things happen in the passing game. But Foster won't be forgotten because the team wants to run a lot and needs to keep both backs fresh.

Third-year pro Eric Shelton, who fell into Henning's doghouse, will get a fresh start with Davidson and could emerge as the short-yardage and goal-line runner because he has much better size than Williams and Foster. Veteran Brad Hoover remains a very dependable lead blocker as the fullback.

### PANTHERS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Steve Smith** (2001-present)
   *Led NFL with 1,563 receiving yards and 103 receptions in 2005.*
2. **Muhsin Muhammad** (1996-2004)
   *Holds team marks in receptions, receiving yards and TD catches.*
3. **Mark Carrier** (1995-98)
   *Led expansion Panthers in receiving yards (1,002) in 1987.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**THOMAS DAVIS**
outside linebacker

Davis has had ups and downs in his first two seasons, but the former college safety has great quickness and athleticism. After a full year as a starter, he should be grasping the mental part of the game better. If Davis can get comfortable, he can become a big-play linebacker.

### DID YOU KNOW

The Panthers had the worst third-down-conversion rate in the NFL last season at 31.1 percent. In 2005, Carolina ranked second in the NFC at 42.2 percent.

Quarterback Jake Delhomme threw six fourth-quarter interceptions last season, more than the three other quarters combined (5). Carolina also lost five times after blowing fourth-quarter leads.

The Houston Texans were 1-15 in games in which Panthers free-agent signee David Carr threw two or more interceptions. The addition of Carr also gives Carolina the top two picks from the 2002 draft, the other being defensive end Julius Peppers.

Although the emphasis will be on getting better production from the running game, the passing attack won't be forgotten. Smith remains the team's most valuable offensive weapon and Davidson will try to tweak things to maximize his production. Smith will be sent in motion more often in an attempt to prevent defenses from devoting too much coverage to him.

### THE COUNT

| 18-12 | 47 | 16.8 |
|---|---|---|
| Carolina's divisional record since the NFC South was created in 2002, better than any divisional opponent. | Consecutive field goals made of less than 40 yards by John Kasay heading into 2007. | Points per game last season, nearly eight fewer than in 2005 and sixth worst in the NFL. |

HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** @ *St. Louis*
SEPT. 9 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 2** vs. *Houston*
SEPT. 16 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 3** @ Atlanta
SEPT. 23 | 4:15
MUST-SEE GAME
*This will be a critical test. Throughout their history, the Panthers have struggled against the division-rival Falcons, particularly in the Georgia Dome. Atlanta quarterback Michael Vick has given Carolina fits with his running ability and linebackers Thomas Davis and Dan Morgan will have to contain him.*
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 4** vs. *Tampa Bay*
SEPT. 30 | 4:05
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 5** @ *New Orleans*
OCT. 7 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 6** @ *Arizona*
OCT. 14 | 4:05
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 7** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 8** vs. *Indianapolis*
OCT. 28 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 9** @ *Tennessee*
NOV. 4 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 10** vs. *Atlanta*
NOV. 11 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 11** @ *Green Bay*
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 12** vs. *New Orleans*
NOV. 25 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 13** vs. *San Francisco*
DEC. 2 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 14** @ *Jacksonville*
DEC. 9 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 15** vs. *Seattle*
DEC. 16 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 16** vs. *Dallas*
DEC. 22 | 8:15
W / L SCORE

**WEEK 17** @ *Tampa Bay*
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W / L SCORE

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 6-20 | Atlanta |
| 09/17 | L | 13-16 | at Minnesota |
| 09/24 | W | 26-24 | at Tampa Bay |
| 10/01 | W | 21-18 | New Orleans |
| 10/08 | W | 20-12 | Cleveland |
| 10/15 | W | 23-21 | at Baltimore |
| 10/22 | L | 14-17 | at Cincinnati |
| 10/29 | L | 14-35 | Dallas |
| 11/13 | W | 24-10 | Tampa Bay |
| 11/19 | W | 15-0 | St. Louis |
| 11/26 | L | 13-17 | at Washington |
| 12/04 | L | 24-27 | at Philadelphia |
| 12/10 | L | 13-27 | New York Giants |
| 12/17 | L | 3-37 | Pittsburgh |
| 12/24 | W | 10-3 | at Atlanta |
| 12/31 | W | 31-21 | at New Orleans |

**WON 8, LOST 8**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foster | 227 | 897 | 4.0 | 43t | 3 |
| D. Williams | 121 | 501 | 4.1 | 31 | 1 |
| Hoover | 22 | 73 | 3.3 | 17 | 1 |
| Smith | 8 | 61 | 7.6 | 24t | 1 |
| Goings | 11 | 52 | 4.7 | 28 | 0 |
| Shelton | 8 | 23 | 2.9 | 9 | 0 |
| Carter | 2 | 18 | 9.0 | 11 | 0 |
| Weinke | 4 | 16 | 4.0 | 13 | 0 |
| Delhomme | 18 | 12 | 0.7 | 12 | 0 |
| K. Johnson | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4t | 1 |
| Basanez | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| **Panthers** | 423 | 1659 | 3.9 | 43t | 7 |
| **Opponents** | 449 | 1737 | 3.9 | 41t | 10 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Smith | 83 | 1166 | 14.0 | 72 | 8 |
| K. Johnson | 70 | 815 | 11.6 | 40 | 4 |
| D. Williams | 33 | 313 | 9.5 | 41 | 1 |
| Foster | 32 | 159 | 5.0 | 14 | 0 |
| Carter | 28 | 357 | 12.8 | 42 | 3 |
| Mangum | 21 | 170 | 8.1 | 19 | 1 |
| Hoover | 20 | 122 | 6.1 | 16 | 0 |
| Gaines | 15 | 146 | 9.7 | 19 | 0 |
| Goings | 10 | 107 | 10.7 | 23 | 1 |
| Colbert | 5 | 56 | 11.2 | 16 | 0 |
| Biddle | 3 | 37 | 12.3 | 22 | 0 |
| Hankton | 3 | 31 | 10.3 | 18 | 0 |
| Shelton | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |
| King | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1 |
| **Panthers** | 325 | 3486 | 10.7 | 72t | 19 |
| **Opponents** | 291 | 3265 | 11.2 | 86t | 22 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Delhomme | 431 | 263 | 2805 | 17 | 11 |
| Weinke | 96 | 56 | 625 | 2 | 4 |
| Basanez | 11 | 6 | 56 | 0 | 1 |
| K. Johnson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Panthers** | 539 | 325 | 3486 | 19 | 17 |
| **Opponents** | 500 | 291 | 3265 | 22 | 14 |

**SACKS**

Peppers 13, Draft 5.5, Rucker 5, Lewis 4.5, Jenkins 3, Wallace 3, Anderson 2, T. Davis 1.5, Gamble 1, Marshall 1, Moorehead 0.5

**PANTHERS 41, OPPONENTS 32**

## DRAFT REPORT

In a surprise move, the Panthers passed on TE Greg Olsen to select LB **Jon Beason** in the first round. The Miami junior has the flexibility to play any of the three spots and should compete for the starting job on the weakside. Wide receiver **Dwayne Jarrett** brought outstanding value in the second round. The draft's best center, **Ryan Kalil**, was also added in Round Two even though the position was not of need for Carolina. **Charles Johnson** is coming off an outstanding junior season at Georgia and should provide quality depth behind Julius Peppers and Mike Rucker. **Ryne Robinson** will contribute immediately on the punt and kick return team. It wasn't until the fifth round that the Panthers addressed the need at tight end with **Dante Rosario**. **Tim Shaw** is an athletic and versatile linebacker who will provide insurance behind often-injured Dan Morgan. **C.J. Wilson** may need to spend his rookie season on the practice squad.

**GRADE B**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 25 | Beason, Jon | LB | 6-0 | 236 | Miami (FL) |
| 2 | 13 | Jarrett, Dwayne | WR | 6-5 | 215 | USC |
| 2 | 27 | Kalil, Ryan | C | 6-3 | 285 | USC |
| 3 | 20 | Johnson, Charles | DE | 6-2 | 270 | Georgia |
| 4 | 19 | Robinson, Ryne | WR | 5-10 | 169 | Miami (OH) |
| 5 | 18 | Rosario, Dante | TE | 6-4 | 250 | Oregon |
| 5 | 27 | Shaw, Tim | LB | 6-1 | 237 | Penn State |
| 7 | 16 | Wilson, C.J. | CB | 6-1 | 195 | Baylor |

Veteran Keyshawn Johnson, a dependable possession receiver last year, was viewed as expendable and released in early May after the Panthers were able to select fellow USC alum Dwayne Jarrett in the second round of the draft. The team will try to get speedster Drew Carter more involved. Keary Colbert, another player who wasn't in Henning's good graces, will also get a fresh start, but he needs to show better hands and route running if he's going to get significant playing time.

Davidson also wants to get the tight ends more involved in the passing game, which presents a big opportunity for Michael Gaines and Jeff King, who spent last year being used primarily as blockers.

But the real key to the offense will be quarterback Jake Delhomme, who enters the season under as much pressure as Fox and Hurney. Delhomme's numbers fell off dramatically last season. Part of that can be blamed on the lack of a consistent running game and poor pass protection by the line. But the team has gone to great lengths to fix both of those problems, so Delhomme will need to play well early.

If he doesn't, the team won't hesitate to turn to David Carr, who was brought in from Houston. A former No. 1 overall pick, Carr struggled behind a bad offensive line with the Texans, but could flourish with a better team.

Defensively, there won't be dramatic changes to the scheme, but coordinator Mike Trgovac wants to get back to the basics of stopping the run and putting pressure on opposing quarterbacks. Having Peppers is a good start. The sixth-year defensive end is one of the league's elite pass rushers, while veteran Mike Rucker is a solid complement on the other side. The Panthers released Al Wallace, a key veteran backup, after last season, so third-round pick Charles Johnson will get plenty of playing time as the third end and likely will take over for the aging Rucker in a year or two.

The team wants more help for the pass rush from the interior line and pairing the speedy Damione Lewis with run-stuffer Maake Kemoeatu should be a good combination.

Although most of the pass rush will come from the front four, the Panthers want to get strongside linebacker Thomas Davis more involved as a blitzer. Davis has shown excellent speed

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Panthers)*

"The Panthers have to run the ball better if they're going to be any good on offense. Steve Smith is great, but he's got to have some help from the running game. DeShaun Foster got his chance to be the main guy last year and really didn't do anything special. They need to get DeAngelo Williams on the field more often because he's much more of a home-run threat. Going to zone blocking should help because it will allow Williams and Foster to do the things they do best. ... Dan Morgan can make a big difference in their defense, but you never know if he's going to be able to stay healthy. ... Their run defense would be a lot better if their secondary was better at tackling."

in coverage and the coaches believe he can utilize that quickness as a pass rusher. Davis also plays the run fairly well, but the real key to the success of the run defense will be middle linebacker Dan Morgan.

Cleared to return after missing most of last season with concussion problems, Morgan is a dominant player when he's on the field. But he has never been able to stay healthy for a 16-game season. That's why the Panthers used their first-round pick on Jon Beason, who plays similarly to Morgan in addition to being a fellow Miami alum. Beason will likely open the season ahead of veteran Na'il Diggs and second-year pro James Anderson on the weakside, but he'll be ready to slide into the middle if Morgan begins missing time.

There could be major changes at safety, where veteran Mike Minter is the only experienced player. Minter, however, is entering what's likely to be his final season and the team wants to get younger at the position. Second-year pro Nate Salley will get a long look in training camp and journeyman Deke Cooper, who saw some playing time in San Francisco and Jacksonville, was brought in to challenge for strong safety.

The cornerback play also needs to improve. Richard Marshall became the team's most dependable corner last season as a rookie, while veterans Ken Lucas and Chris Gamble struggled. Lucas and Gamble need to bounce back and be more physical if they're going to keep their starting jobs.

The kicking game remains a strength of this team. Veteran John Kasay, the last member of the original Panthers, is a dependable kicker who has won plenty of big games. Jason Baker is one of the league's most consistent punters. But the return game needs to improve dramatically after ranking near the bottom of the league in both punt and kickoff returns last season. That's why a fourth-round pick was used on Miami (Ohio) return man Ryne Robinson. He'll be allowed to focus solely on special teams, where he showed lots of explosiveness in college.

This is a team that enters the season with a lot more question marks than it did a year ago, when many prognosticators had the Panthers pegged for the Super Bowl. But last year showed that games aren't won on paper in the preseason. They're won by reacting positively to the adversities that pop up during the season and, fortunately for the Panthers, they still have enough talent to contend for the NFC South title.

**FINAL GRADE**

**85**

STOCK REPORT: UP

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**David Carr**, QB (HOU)

*Jake Delhomme will open the season as the starting quarterback, but the signing of David Carr means the team won't wait long if Delhomme struggles. With Chris Weinke as the backup last year, the Panthers didn't have a viable alternative to Delhomme. Now they do.*

- Stephen Williams, DT (KC)
- Terrence Melton, LB (NO)
- Curtis Deloatch, DB (NO)
- Chad Lavalais, DT (ATL)
- Dave Ball, DE (NYJ)
- Deke Cooper, DB (SF)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Vinny Ciurciu, LB (MIN)
- Keyshawn Johnson, WR
- Kevin McCadam, DB (JAC)
- Chris Draft, LB (STL)

> "I've been on teams that aren't winning and it wasn't exciting. Football is a hard enough game when you go out there and you're battling everything. You go out and lose, it makes it hard. I wanted to be on a team that was fun and exciting and, whether I had a chance to play right away, it didn't matter to me."
>
> *—free-agent acquisition David Carr on joining the Panthers*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 307.7 | 24 |
| Rushing | 103.7 | 24 |
| Passing | 204.0 | 15 |
| Scoring | 270 | 27 |
| Punt Returns | 4.6 | 32 |
| Kick Returns | 19.4 | 32 |
| Red Zone TD % | 46.9 | 19 |
| Total Defense | 296.1 | 7 |
| Against Rush | 108.6 | 11 |
| Against Pass | 187.5 | 4 |
| Points Allowed | 305 | 8t |
| Interceptions | 14 | 22t |
| Sacks | 41 | 6t |
| Turnover Diff. | -5 | 23t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 278 | 100 | 158 | 20 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 32 | 141 | 15 | 12 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 19 | 0 | 2 |

## PANTHERS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | Basanez, Brett | QB | 6-2 | 215 | 05/11/1983 | 1 | Northwestern |
| 8 | Carr, David | QB | 6-3 | 230 | 07/21/1979 | 5 | Fresno State |
| 17 | Delhomme, Jake | QB | 6-2 | 215 | 01/10/1975 | 6 | La.-Lafayette |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 76 | Batiste, D'Anthony | T | 6-4 | 318 | 03/29/1981 | 0 | La.-Lafayette |
| 73 | Bridges, Jeremy | G | 6-4 | 326 | 04/19/1980 | 3 | Southern Miss |
| 79 | Butler, Rashad | T | 6-4 | 293 | 02/10/1983 | 0 | Miami (FL) |
| 69 | Gross, Jordan | T | 6-4 | 300 | 07/20/1980 | 4 | Utah |
| 63 | Hangartner, Geoff | C | 6-5 | 301 | 04/22/1982 | 2 | Texas A&M |
| 75 | Hartwig, Justin | C | 6-4 | 312 | 11/21/1978 | 5 | Kansas |
| 71 | Mathis, Evan | G | 6-5 | 304 | 11/01/1981 | 2 | Alabama |
| 66 | Montgomery, Will | C | 6-3 | 312 | 02/13/1983 | 1 | Virginia Tech |
| 68 | Sciullo, Steve | G | 6-5 | 325 | 08/27/1980 | 2 | Marshall |
| 68 | Wahle, Mike | G | 6-6 | 304 | 03/29/1977 | 9 | Navy |
| 70 | Wharton, Travelle | T | 6-4 | 312 | 05/19/1981 | 3 | South Carolina |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26 | Foster, DeShaun | RB | 6-0 | 222 | 01/10/1980 | 4 | UCLA |
| 37 | Goings, Nick | RB | 6-0 | 225 | 01/26/1978 | 6 | Pittsburgh |
| 24 | Haynes, Alex | RB | 5-10 | 225 | 02/13/1982 | 0 | UCF |
| 45 | Hoover, Brad | RB | 6-0 | 245 | 11/11/1976 | 7 | Western Carolina |
| 48 | Jackson, Steven | RB | 6-2 | 260 | 05/11/1984 | 0 | Clemson |
| 32 | Shelton, Eric | RB | 6-1 | 246 | 06/23/1983 | 1 | Louisville |
| 34 | Williams, DeAngelo | RB | 5-9 | 217 | 04/25/1983 | 1 | Memphis |

| # | RECEIVERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Biddle, Taye | WR | 6-1 | 175 | 02/27/1983 | 1 | Mississippi |
| 18 | Carter, Drew | WR | 6-3 | 200 | 09/05/1981 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 83 | Colbert, Keary | WR | 6-1 | 200 | 05/21/1982 | 3 | USC |
| 84 | Gaines, Michael | TE | 6-3 | 280 | 03/30/1980 | 3 | UCF |
| 81 | Horn, Chris | WR | 5-11 | 195 | 07/13/1977 | 2 | Rocky Mountain |
| 87 | King, Jeff | TE | 6-3 | 253 | 02/19/1983 | 1 | Virginia Tech |
| 12 | McCullum, Justin | WR | 6-4 | 220 | 10/05/1982 | 0 | Stanford |
| 89 | Smith, Steve | WR | 5-9 | 185 | 05/12/1979 | 6 | Utah |
| 19 | Youngblood, Kevin | WR | 6-5 | 215 | 11/22/1980 | 1 | Clemson |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 96 | Ball, Dave | DE | 6-5 | 277 | 01/04/1981 | 3 | UCLA |
| 67 | Carstens, Jordan | DT | 6-5 | 300 | 01/22/1981 | 3 | Iowa State |
| 60 | Grigsby, Otis | DE | 6-3 | 260 | 11/19/1980 | 0 | Kentucky |
| 77 | Jenkins, Kris | DT | 6-4 | 335 | 08/03/1979 | 6 | Maryland |
| 99 | Kemoeatu, Maake | DT | 6-5 | 350 | 01/10/1979 | 5 | Utah |
| 91 | Lavalais, Chad | DT | 6-2 | 292 | 04/15/1979 | 2 | LSU |
| 92 | Lewis, Damione | DT | 6-2 | 301 | 03/01/1978 | 6 | Miami (FL) |
| 74 | McClover, Stanley | DE | 6-2 | 263 | 12/16/1984 | 1 | Auburn |
| 94 | Moorehead, Kindal | DT | 6-2 | 285 | 10/14/1978 | 4 | Alabama |
| 90 | Peppers, Julius | DE | 6-7 | 283 | 01/18/1980 | 5 | North Carolina |
| 93 | Rucker, Mike | DE | 6-5 | 275 | 02/28/1975 | 8 | Nebraska |
| 98 | Williams, Stephen | DT | 6-2 | 306 | 09/21/1981 | 1 | NW Missouri St. |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | Byrum, Dion | CB | 5-10 | 192 | 02/18/1983 | 1 | Ohio |
| 35 | Cooper, Deke | S | 6-2 | 210 | 10/18/1977 | 5 | Notre Dame |
| 41 | Deloatch, Curtis | CB | 6-2 | 210 | 10/04/1981 | 3 | North Carolina A&T |
| 20 | Gamble, Chris | CB | 6-1 | 200 | 03/11/1983 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 25 | Garrett, Kevin | CB | 5-10 | 194 | 07/29/1980 | 3 | Southern Methodist |
| 21 | Lucas, Ken | CB | 6-0 | 205 | 01/23/1979 | 6 | Mississippi |
| 31 | Marshall, Richard | CB | 5-11 | 189 | 12/12/1984 | 1 | Fresno State |
| 30 | Minter, Mike | S | 5-10 | 195 | 01/15/1974 | 10 | Nebraska |
| 35 | Morton, Christian | CB | 6-0 | 180 | 04/28/1981 | 3 | Illinois |
| 29 | Newton, Cam | S | 6-1 | 203 | 05/19/1982 | 2 | Furman |
| 33 | Salley, Nate | S | 6-1 | 219 | 02/05/1984 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 22 | Strait, Derrick | CB | 5-11 | 189 | 08/27/1980 | 3 | Oklahoma |

| # | LINEBACKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | Anderson, James | LB | 6-2 | 232 | 09/26/1983 | 1 | Virginia Tech |
| 58 | Davis, Thomas | LB | 6-0 | 231 | 03/22/1983 | 2 | Georgia |
| 53 | Diggs, Na'il | LB | 6-4 | 240 | 07/08/1978 | 7 | Ohio State |
| 57 | Jamison, Brandon | LB | 6-1 | 205 | 07/31/1981 | 1 | West Georgia |
| 56 | Kyle, Jason | LB | 6-3 | 242 | 05/12/1972 | 10 | Arizona State |
| 54 | Melton, Terrence | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 01/01/1977 | 3 | Rice |
| 55 | Morgan, Dan | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 12/19/1978 | 6 | Miami (FL) |
| 59 | Seward, Adam | LB | 6-2 | 248 | 06/15/1982 | 2 | UNLV |

| # | KICKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Baker, Jason | P | 6-2 | 205 | 05/17/1978 | 6 | Iowa |
| 4 | Kasay, John | K | 5-10 | 198 | 10/27/1969 | 15 | Georgia |

**JOHN FOX**, HEAD COACH

**Jim Skipper**, asst. head coach/running backs; **Jeff Davidson**, off. coord.; **Mike Trgovac**, def. coord.; **Danny Crossman**, special teams; **Geep Chryst**, tight ends; **Ken Flajole**, linebackers; **Mike Gillhamer**, secondary/safeties; **Tim Lewis**, secondary; **Dave Magazu**, off. line; **Mike McCoy**, quarterbacks/passing coord.; **Sal Sunseri**, def. line; **Richard Williamson**, wide receivers

# ATLANTA

# 3

**NFC SOUTH**

2006 Record: 7-9
www.atlantafalcons.com
GEORGIA DOME
Capacity: 71,149 Turf: Artificial
Tickets: 404-223-8000

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | | |
| QB | Michael Vick | |
| FB | Ovie Mughelli | |
| RB | Warrick Dunn | |
| LT | Wayne Gandy | |
| LG | Justin Blalock | |
| C | Todd McClure | |
| RG | Kynan Forney | |
| RT | Todd Weiner | |
| TE | Alge Crumpler | |
| WR | Joe Horn | |
| WR | Michael Jenkins | |
| **DEFENSE** | | |
| LE | Jamaal Anderson | |
| LT | Grady Jackson | |
| RT | Rod Coleman | |
| RE | John Abraham | |
| LLB | Michael Boley | |
| MLB | Keith Brooking | |
| RLB | Demorrio Williams | |
| LCB | DeAngelo Hall | |
| RCB | Chris Houston | |
| SS | Lawyer Milloy | |
| FS | Jimmy Williams | |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | | |
| P | Michael Koenen | |
| K | Aaron Elling | |
| PR | Allen Rossum | |
| KR | Allen Rossum | |

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 3 |
| Quarterbacks | 3 |
| Running Backs | 5 |
| Receivers | 3 |
| Defensive Line | 3 |
| Linebackers | 4 |
| Secondary | 3 |
| Special Teams | 3 |
| Management | 4 |

## Vick's last stand?

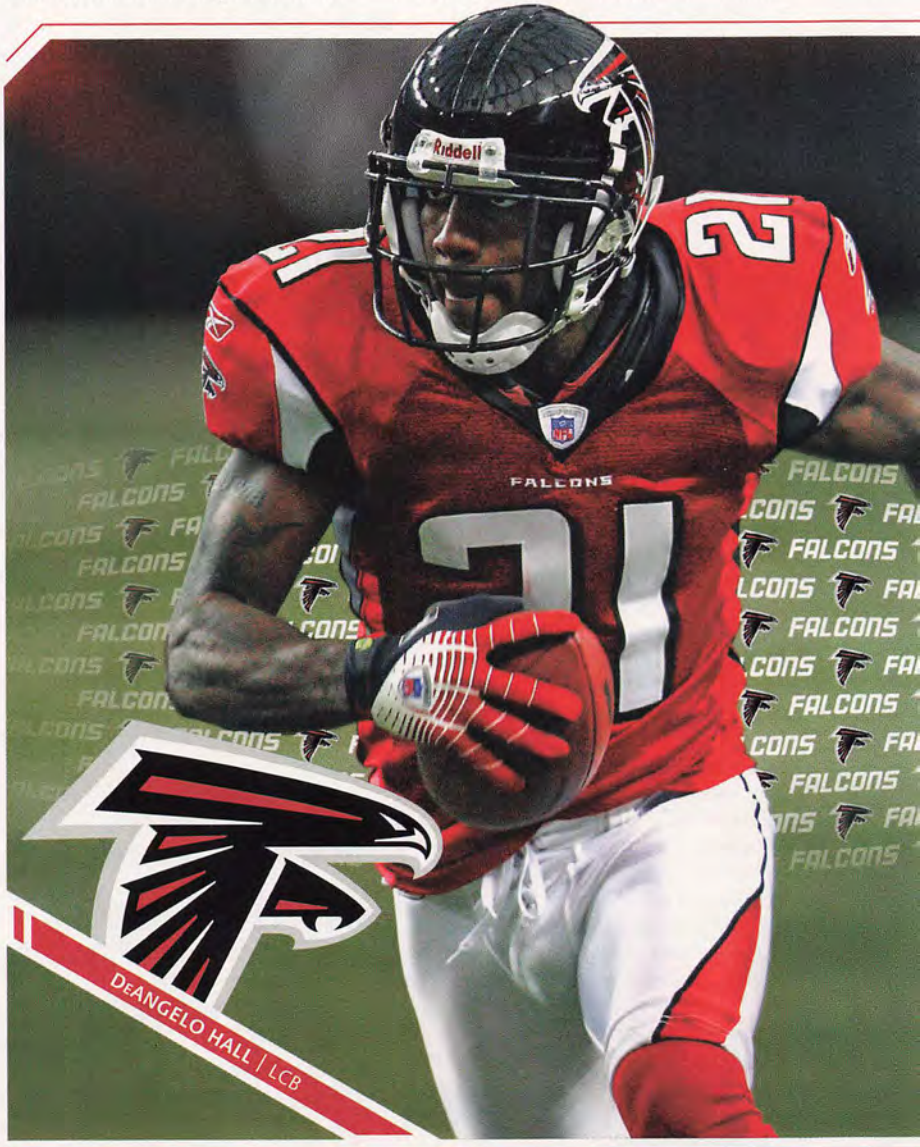
The Falcons are hoping new Coach Bobby Petrino can work the same magic with QB Michael Vick that he did at the University of Louisville.

There's an adage in the National Football League that if you fire a fat coach, you replace him with a skinny one.

Weight had nothing to do with Bobby Petrino replacing Jim Mora Jr., but you get the picture: When one style doesn't work, you go with the exact opposite.

That's precisely what the Atlanta Falcons did when they fired Mora after last season and brought in Petrino, who was a highly successful college coach at the University of Louisville. Mora was mercurial, high-energy and didn't always keep a firm grasp on his team. That led to a talented team greatly underachieving in each of the last two years, costing Mora his job.

Enter Petrino, who couldn't be more different than Mora. He's calm,




DALE ZANINE / US PRESSWIRE

## DRAFT REPORT

After losing Patrick Kerney in free agency, Atlanta needed to upgrade the defensive end position opposite John Abraham and did so with the selection of **Jamaal Anderson**. The former Razorbacks underclassman is a work in progress, but has the size and athletic ability to be an every-down starter. Coach Bobby Petrino prefers a smash-mouth approach on offense and former Texas OG/OT **Justin Blalock** fits that mold perfectly. Blalock should start early in his pro career. **Chris Houston** has blazing speed and press/man coverage skills, but will need time to learn the zone packages. Although he was a bit of a reach in the third round, **Laurent Robinson** is another attempt in recent years to upgrade the Falcons' wide receiver position. **Stephen Nicholas** is an athletic but undersized linebacker who can provide depth at all three positions. **Martrez Milner** d oes well as an extra in-line blocker, but lacks consistent hands as a receiver. The team traded its fifth-round selection to Jacksonville for three sixth-round picks, and added Auburn's **David Irons**, **Doug Datish** of Ohio State and Maine's **Daren Stone**. Irons is a scrappy cornerback, Datish can play center or guard and Stone will be groomed to replace Lawyer Milloy. This has the look of an outstanding trade for the Falcons. **Jason Snelling** is the big back that Petrino prefers, while DT **Trey Lewis** will spend the year on the practice squad.

**GRADE B+**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | Anderson, Jamaal | DE | 6-6 | 279 | Arkansas |
| 2 | 7 | Blalock, Justin | T | 6-4 | 335 | Texas |
| 2 | 9 | Houston, Chris | CB | 5-11 | 188 | Arkansas |
| 3 | 11 | Robinson, Laurent | WR | 6-2 | 195 | Illinois State |
| 4 | 10 | Nicholas, Stephen | LB | 6-3 | 225 | South Florida |
| 4 | 34 | Milner, Martrez | TE | 6-4 | 255 | Georgia |
| 6 | 11 | Lewis, Trey | DT | 6-3 | 318 | Washburn |
| 6 | 20 | Irons, David | CB | 5-11 | 190 | Auburn |
| 6 | 24 | Datish, Doug | C | 6-5 | 295 | Ohio State |
| 6 | 29 | Stone, Daren | S | 6-3 | 221 | Maine |
| 7 | 34 | Snelling, Jason | RB | 5-11 | 233 | Virginia |

methodical, a disciplinarian and strong tactician. Petrino just might be what the Falcons need to finally reach their enormous potential.

And speaking of unrealized potential, Petrino's main job will be to finally develop Michael Vick into the all-world quarterback everyone's been expecting for years. Mora and predecessor Dan Reeves were never quite able to figure out how to handle Vick, who didn't benefit from the fact the philosophy on how to use him seemed to change just about every year.

That's where Petrino might make the biggest difference of all. He's entering the job with a clear view of what he wants Vick to be. Mora and Reeves never truly figured out if they wanted Vick to be a runner or a passer and things often got confusing.

There won't be any uncertainty with Petrino because he's made it clear he wants Vick to be a passer, first and foremost. Petrino's not going to completely cut off the speedy Vick from running. But Petrino has made it clear to Vick that he's supposed to run only as a third option, when his primary and secondary receivers are covered or the pass rush is closing in on him.

Vick's relationship with Mora was often shaky, but Petrino and the quarterback seem to be on the same page. Vick is especially excited that Petrino is giving him the opportunity to call audibles at the line of scrimmage, something Mora refused to do.

Petrino isn't looking to be Vick's buddy and the relationship will be purely player-coach. But Offensive Coordinator Hue Jackson will take on the role as Vick's mentor and confidant.

If all these plans for Vick work, the Falcons could fly. They've got plenty of ingredients in place at other areas. Atlanta had one of the league's top running games the last few years and Petrino doesn't want that to change, although there will be some noticeable tweaks.

Start in the backfield, where Warrick Dunn has had three straight 1,000-yard seasons and, at 32, hasn't showed many signs he's ready to slow down. Dunn will remain the feature back, but the Falcons will look to lighten his load a bit.

### THE BOOK ON ... Michael Vick *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Trading Matt Schaub means everything's on [Michael] Vick's shoulders. I think [Bobby] Petrino and Offensive Coordinator Hue Jackson will bring more structure and that should help. Getting Joe Horn gives him a proven wide receiver and the running game is always going to keep defenses honest. But the key to their season is always going to come down to Vick and he's got to be more consistent and accurate."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** @ *Minnesota*
SEPT. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 2** @ *Jacksonville*
SEPT. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 3** vs. *Carolina*
SEPT. 23 | 4:15
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 4** vs. *Houston*
SEPT. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 5** @ *Tennessee*
OCT. 7 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 6** vs. *New York Giants*
OCT. 15 | 8:30
**MUST-SEE GAME**
*By the time Atlanta plays this Monday night game, Coach Bobby Petrino's system will have had time to take hold. In front of a national audience, we'll find out if Michael Vick is finally in the right situation.*
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 7** @ *New Orleans*
OCT. 21 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 8** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 9** vs. *San Francisco*
NOV. 4 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 10** @ *Carolina*
NOV. 11 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 11** vs. *Tampa Bay*
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 12** vs. *Indianapolis*
NOV. 22 | 8:15
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 13** @ *St. Louis*
DEC. 2 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 14** vs. *New Orleans*
DEC. 10 | 8:30
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 15** @ *Tampa Bay*
DEC. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 16** @ *Arizona*
DEC. 23 | 4:05
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 17** vs. *Seattle*
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 20-6 | at Carolina |
| 09/17 | W | 14-3 | Tampa Bay |
| 09/25 | L | 3-23 | at New Orleans |
| 10/01 | W | 32-10 | Arizona |
| 10/15 | L | 14-27 | New York Giants |
| 10/22 | W | 41-38 | Pittsburgh |
| 10/29 | W | 29-27 | at Cincinnati |
| 11/05 | L | 14-30 | at Detroit |
| 11/12 | L | 13-17 | Cleveland |
| 11/19 | L | 10-24 | at Baltimore |
| 11/26 | L | 13-31 | New Orleans |
| 12/03 | W | 24-14 | at Washington |
| 12/10 | W | 17-6 | at Tampa Bay |
| 12/16 | L | 28-38 | Dallas |
| 12/24 | L | 3-10 | Carolina |
| 12/31 | L | 17-24 | at Philadelphia |

WON 7, LOST 9

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dunn | 286 | 1140 | 4.0 | 90t | 4 |
| Vick | 123 | 1039 | 8.4 | 51 | 2 |
| Norwood | 99 | 633 | 6.4 | 78t | 2 |
| Griffith | 19 | 106 | 5.6 | 21t | 1 |
| Schaub | 7 | 21 | 3.0 | 19 | 0 |
| M. Jackson | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Jenkins | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Jennings | 1 | -4 | -4.0 | -4 | 0 |
| **Falcons** | 537 | 2939 | 5.5 | 90t | 9 |
| **Opponents** | 442 | 1657 | 3.7 | 35t | 14 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Crumpler | 56 | 780 | 13.9 | 46 | 8 |
| Jenkins | 39 | 436 | 11.2 | 34t | 7 |
| White | 30 | 506 | 16.9 | 55 | 0 |
| Lelie | 28 | 430 | 15.4 | 51 | 1 |
| Griffith | 23 | 168 | 7.3 | 16 | 3 |
| Dunn | 22 | 170 | 7.7 | 18 | 1 |
| Norwood | 12 | 102 | 8.5 | 32 | 0 |
| Blakley | 6 | 76 | 12.7 | 28 | 0 |
| McCrary | 3 | 13 | 4.3 | 7 | 1 |
| Vick | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 0 |
| Beverly | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hall | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Falcons** | 222 | 2682 | 12.1 | 55 | 21 |
| **Opponents** | 321 | 3903 | 12.2 | 89t | 20 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vick | 388 | 204 | 2474 | 20 | 13 |
| Schaub | 27 | 18 | 208 | 1 | 2 |
| Norwood | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Falcons** | 416 | 222 | 2682 | 21 | 15 |
| **Opponents** | 515 | 321 | 3903 | 20 | 12 |

**SACKS**

Coleman 6, Kerney 4.5, Abraham 4, Mallard 4, Boley 3, Carrington 3, Brooking 2.5, Milloy 2, Babineaux 1, Crocker 1, Davis 1, Hartwell 1, T. Jackson 1, Mathis 1, Shropshire 1, D. Williams 1

FALCONS 37, OPPONENTS 47

Second-year pro Jerious Norwood averaged 6.4 yards per carry as a rookie and the Falcons want to get him a lot more than the 99 carries he had last season.

Norwood and Dunn should also be helped greatly by the fact Atlanta brought in Ovie Mughelli as a free agent from Baltimore. Mughelli is more of a true blocking fullback than predecessor Justin Griffith, who was frequently used as a receiver.

But the addition of Mughelli isn't the only major change in blocking schemes the Falcons are making. After using a zone-blocking scheme under Mora, Atlanta will turn to a more traditional, in-line blocking system and that's why the Falcons looked to bulk up the offensive line in the offseason. The biggest addition is rookie Justin Blalock, who will take over immediately at left guard. Blalock will play at about 320 pounds and will give the Falcons the kind of mauling guard they've been missing.

Blalock will play next to the aging, but solid, left tackle Wayne Gandy and the rest of last year's offensive line returns intact. Center Todd McClure, right guard Kynan Forney and right tackle Todd Weiner are all veterans who don't excel in any particular area, but function well as a unit.

The line is capable of protecting Vick, but the key to the passing game will be getting more accuracy out of the quarterback. Part of Vick's struggles can be attributed to the fact the Falcons haven't had a go-to wide receiver and that's why they brought in veteran Joe Horn from New Orleans. Horn is a solid mid-range receiver with good hands and will be the No. 1 receiver. Atlanta is hoping Michael Jenkins can become a more consistent option in his fourth season. The Falcons are also hoping Roddy White can start playing to his potential and be the No. 3 receiver, but veteran Brian Finneran is a reliable alternative.

Vick's favorite receiver in recent years has been Alge Crumpler, and Petrino doesn't want to do anything to alter the chemistry between the quarterback and tight end. Daniel Fells also will get a lot of playing time as a blocking tight end.

Atlanta's defensive line could either be very good or very bad. End Patrick Kerney left for Seattle in free agency and

### DID YOU KNOW

The Falcons became just the fourth team in league history with two 1,000-yard rushers last season in running back Warrick Dunn (1,140) and quarterback Michael Vick (1,039).

Michael Vick became the first quarterback to rush for 1,000 yards last season, but ranked just 23rd in the league in averaging 154.6 passing yards a game. His 3,514 yards of total offense also ranked ninth in the NFL. However, seven other quarterbacks eclipsed that mark in passing yards alone.

Last season the Falcons became the first team to rush for at least 2,500 yards (2,939), yet score fewer than 10 rushing touchdowns (nine).

### FALCONS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Andre Rison** (1990-94)
*"Bad Moon" Rison was not only entertaining and explosive on the field, but off of it, too.*

2. **Terance Mathis** (1994-2001)
*Mathis was one of the most consistent receivers in franchise history, recording 573 receptions and 57 TDs over his eight seasons with Atlanta.*

3. **Alfred Jenkins** (1975-83)
*Jenkins was the bright spot (360 receptions, 6,267 receiving yards and 40 TDs) on some bad Falcons teams.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**JERIOUS NORWOOD**
running back

He averaged 6.4 yards while carrying 99 times as a rookie. Warrick Dunn remains the feature back, but the Falcons will find ways to get Norwood more involved in the offense. He brings explosiveness as a runner and also has the tools to be a threat in the passing game.

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Falcons)*

"[Bobby] Petrino is going to make a big difference, just because he brings stability and a solid plan. But he may not have all the horses yet to fit his system and there are going to be some growing pains. ... If John Abraham and Rod Coleman are healthy, they'll have a very good defensive line. If they're not, this will be a huge problem area. ... The wide receivers have always let [Michael] Vick down and that's got to change. Joe Horn will help, but Michael Jenkins and Roddy White really have to take big steps forward or else it will be the same old story."

HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 331.9 | 12 | Total Defense | 332.8 | 22 |
| Rushing | 183.7 | 1 | Against Rush | 103.6 | 9 |
| Passing | 148.2 | 32 | Against Pass | 229.3 | 29 |
| Scoring | 292 | 25 | Points Allowed | 328 | 15 |
| Punt Returns | 7.8 | 27 | Interceptions | 12 | 25t |
| Kick Returns | 22.7 | 15 | Sacks | 37 | 14 |
| Red Zone TD % | 42.6 | 27 | Turnover Diff. | +6 | 8 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 287 | 134 | 133 | 20 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 47 | 187 | 20 | 16 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 21 | 0 | 2 |

tackle Rod Coleman is coming off an offseason quadriceps injury suffered in a boating accident that may limit him early in the season. But there's still plenty of talent here. Rookie Jamaal Anderson will take over Kerney's spot. He'll have to produce right away if the line is going to be successful. John Abraham is the starter at the other end, but there are big questions in the middle.

If Coleman is healthy at the start of the season, it will help tremendously because he's a force against the run and the pass. Nose tackle Grady Jackson has been disgruntled and Jonathan Babineaux may take over his starting job.

The linebacker corps is a team strength with Keith Brooking expected to stay in the middle, after bouncing around under Mora. Strongside linebacker Michael Boley is just entering his prime and has the potential to emerge as the team's best defensive player. Demorrio Williams is the projected starter on the weakside, but is also coming off a major offseason injury (tearing his pectoral muscle lifting weights) that could limit his effectiveness early in the year. That's why the Falcons drafted South Florida's Stephen Nicholas, who could get a lot of playing time early.

Atlanta's secondary is just as strong in quality as the linebackers because cornerback DeAngelo Hall can match up with most of the league's top receivers. Rookie Chris Houston will start opposite him and will be tested early. But Houston should be helped considerably by safeties Lawyer Milloy and Jimmy Williams. The veteran Milloy remains one of the league's top strong safeties and is like an extra linebacker against the run.

Michael Koenen will again handle punts and kickoffs and the Falcons added veteran Billy Cundiff to compete with Aaron Elling for the field-goal-kicking job. Ten-year veteran Allen Rossum remains the top kickoff and punt returner, but Norwood and Adam Jennings also could get some action in the return game.

**FINAL GRADE** 81

**STOCK REPORT** UP

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

### OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER

**Joe Horn**, WR (NO)

*The signing of the veteran free agent was a strong indication that the Falcons want to do everything they can to help Michael Vick succeed. Horn may be aging, but he's still a very solid mid-range receiver. He could also be the best wide receiver Vick has ever had the opportunity to work with and the pairing could help both players' careers.*

- Marcus Wilkins, LB (CIN)
- Lewis Sanders, DB (HOU)
- Ovie Mughelli, FB (BAL)
- Toniu Fonoti, OG (MIA)
- Derrick Hamilton, WR (SF)
- Joey Harrington, QB (MIA)
- Anthony Bryant, DT (DET)
- Chris Redman, QB (BAL)
- Billy Cundiff, K (NO)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Justin Griffith, RB (OAK)
- Patrick Kerney, DE (SEA)
- Ashley Lelie, WR (SF)
- Tony Yelk, K (JAC)
- Matt Schaub, QB (trade, HOU)
- Chad Lavalais, DT (CAR)
- Matt Lehr, OG (TB)

## THE COUNT

**5-13**

Atlanta's record after October the last two seasons.

**14.4**

Alge Crumpler's yards per reception over the past three seasons, the highest average in the NFL by any tight end over that span.

**7,622**

Receiving yards since 2000 for offseason acquisition Joe Horn, ranking him fifth in the league during that time.

## FALCONS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | Harrington, Joey | QB | 6-4 | 220 | 10/21/1978 | 5 | Oregon |
| 8 | Redman, Chris | QB | 6-3 | 223 | 07/07/1977 | 3 | Louisville |
| 3 | Shockley, D.J. | QB | 6-0 | 214 | 03/25/1983 | 0 | Georgia |
| 7 | Vick, Michael | QB | 6-0 | 215 | 06/26/1980 | 6 | Virginia Tech |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 64 | Alexander, P.J. | G | 6-4 | 297 | 12/23/1978 | 2 | Syracuse |
| 77 | Clabo, Tyson | G | 6-6 | 314 | 10/17/1981 | 1 | Wake Forest |
| 69 | Claxton, Ben | G | 6-2 | 300 | 07/30/1980 | 1 | Mississippi |
| 68 | Fonoti, Toniu | G | 6-4 | 350 | 11/26/1981 | 4 | Nebraska |
| 65 | Forney, Kynan | G | 6-3 | 307 | 09/08/1978 | 6 | Hawaii |
| 72 | Gandy, Wayne | T | 6-5 | 308 | 02/10/1971 | 13 | Auburn |
| 62 | McClure, Todd | C | 6-1 | 286 | 02/16/1977 | 7 | LSU |
| 76 | Ojinnaka, Quinn | T | 6-5 | 292 | 04/23/1984 | 1 | Syracuse |
| 70 | Omiyale, Frank | T | 6-4 | 310 | 11/23/1982 | 1 | Tennessee Tech |
| 74 | Weiner, Todd | T | 6-4 | 297 | 09/16/1975 | 9 | Kansas State |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | Dunn, Warrick | RB | 5-9 | 180 | 01/05/1975 | 10 | Florida State |
| 38 | McIntyre, Corey | RB | 6-0 | 246 | 01/25/1979 | 2 | West Virginia |
| 34 | Mughelli, Ovie | RB | 6-1 | 255 | 06/10/1980 | 4 | Wake Forest |
| 32 | Norwood, Jerious | RB | 5-11 | 204 | 07/29/1983 | 1 | Mississippi State |
| 42 | Robertson, Jamal | RB | 5-10 | 210 | 01/10/1977 | 5 | Ohio Northern |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 80 | Beverly, Eric | TE | 6-3 | 300 | 03/28/1974 | 9 | Miami (OH) |
| 85 | Blakley, Dwayne | TE | 6-4 | 257 | 08/10/1979 | 3 | Missouri |
| 83 | Crumpler, Alge | TE | 6-2 | 262 | 12/23/1977 | 6 | North Carolina |
| 18 | Elliott, Jamin | WR | 5-11 | 195 | 10/05/1979 | 2 | Delaware |
| 89 | Fells, Daniel | TE | 6-4 | 252 | 09/23/1983 | 0 | UC-Davis |
| 86 | Finneran, Brian | WR | 6-5 | 217 | 01/31/1976 | 7 | Villanova |
| 82 | Gibson, Fred | WR | 6-4 | 202 | 10/26/1981 | 0 | Georgia |
| 15 | Hamilton, Derrick | WR | 6-4 | 203 | 11/30/1981 | 1 | Clemson |
| 87 | Horn, Joe | WR | 6-1 | 213 | 01/16/1972 | 11 | Itawamba (MS) JC |
| 12 | Jenkins, Michael | WR | 6-4 | 217 | 06/18/1982 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 81 | Jennings, Adam | WR | 5-9 | 181 | 11/17/1982 | 1 | Fresno State |
| 47 | Stutz, Boone | TE | 6-6 | 251 | 11/04/1982 | 1 | Texas A&M |
| 84 | White, Roddy | WR | 6-0 | 208 | 11/02/1981 | 2 | UAB |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 55 | Abraham, John | DE | 6-4 | 258 | 05/06/1978 | 7 | South Carolina |
| 95 | Babineaux, Jonathan | DT | 6-2 | 286 | 10/12/1981 | 2 | Iowa |
| 97 | Bryant, Anthony | DT | 6-3 | 337 | 11/06/1981 | 2 | Alabama |
| 91 | Carrington, Paul | DE | 6-7 | 250 | 11/10/1982 | 1 | UCF |
| 75 | Coleman, Rod | DT | 6-2 | 285 | 08/16/1976 | 8 | East Carolina |
| 92 | Davis, Chauncey | DE | 6-2 | 277 | 01/27/1983 | 2 | Florida State |
| 90 | Jackson, Grady | DT | 6-2 | 345 | 01/21/1973 | 10 | Knoxville |
| 99 | Jackson, Tommy | DT | 6-1 | 311 | 12/12/1983 | 1 | Auburn |
| 94 | Mallard, Josh | DE | 6-2 | 259 | 03/21/1979 | 2 | Georgia |
| 71 | Shropshire, Darrell | DT | 6-2 | 301 | 03/18/1983 | 2 | South Carolina |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25 | Crocker, Chris | S | 5-11 | 192 | 03/09/1980 | 4 | Marshall |
| 21 | Hall, DeAngelo | CB | 5-10 | 197 | 11/19/1983 | 3 | Virginia Tech |
| 37 | Johnson, Derrick | CB | 5-10 | 188 | 02/09/1982 | 2 | Washington |
| 26 | Lowe, Omare | S | 6-1 | 195 | 04/20/1978 | 5 | Washington |
| 36 | Milloy, Lawyer | S | 6-0 | 210 | 11/14/1973 | 11 | Washington |
| 40 | Reed, J.R. | S | 5-11 | 202 | 02/11/1982 | 2 | South Florida |
| 20 | Rossum, Allen | CB | 5-8 | 178 | 10/22/1975 | 9 | Notre Dame |
| 21 | Sanders, Lewis | CB | 6-1 | 210 | 06/22/1978 | 6 | Maryland |
| 27 | Webster, Jason | CB | 5-9 | 187 | 09/08/1977 | 7 | Texas A&M |
| 24 | Williams, Jimmy | CB | 6-2 | 216 | 03/08/1984 | 1 | Virginia Tech |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 52 | Beck, Jordan | LB | 6-2 | 233 | 04/18/1983 | 1 | Cal Poly |
| 59 | Boley, Michael | LB | 6-3 | 236 | 08/24/1982 | 2 | Southern Miss |
| 56 | Brooking, Keith | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 10/30/1975 | 9 | Georgia Tech |
| 53 | Leake, John | LB | 6-0 | 228 | 08/28/1981 | 2 | Clemson |
| 50 | Wilkins, Marcus | LB | 6-2 | 231 | 01/02/1980 | 5 | Texas |
| 51 | Williams, Demorrio | LB | 6-0 | 232 | 07/06/1980 | 3 | Nebraska |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Elling, Aaron | K | 6-2 | 201 | 05/31/1978 | 3 | Wyoming |
| | Billy Cundiff | K | 6-1 | 207 | 03/30/1980 | 5 | Drake |
| 9 | Koenen, Michael | P | 5-11 | 195 | 07/13/1982 | 2 | W. Washington |

**BOBBY PETRINO**, HEAD COACH

**Hue Jackson**, off. coord.; **Jerry Rosburg**, special teams coord.; **Mike Zimmer**, def. coord.; **Tom McMahon**, asst. special teams; **Bill Musgrave**, quarterbacks; **Paul Petrino**, wide receivers; **Keith Rowen**, tight ends; **Mike Summers**, off. line; **Emmitt Thomas**, def. backs; **Brian VanGorder**, linebackers; **Joe Whitt Jr.**, asst. def. backs; **Ollie Wilson**, running backs; **Kevin Wolthausen**, def. line

# TAMPA BAY 4

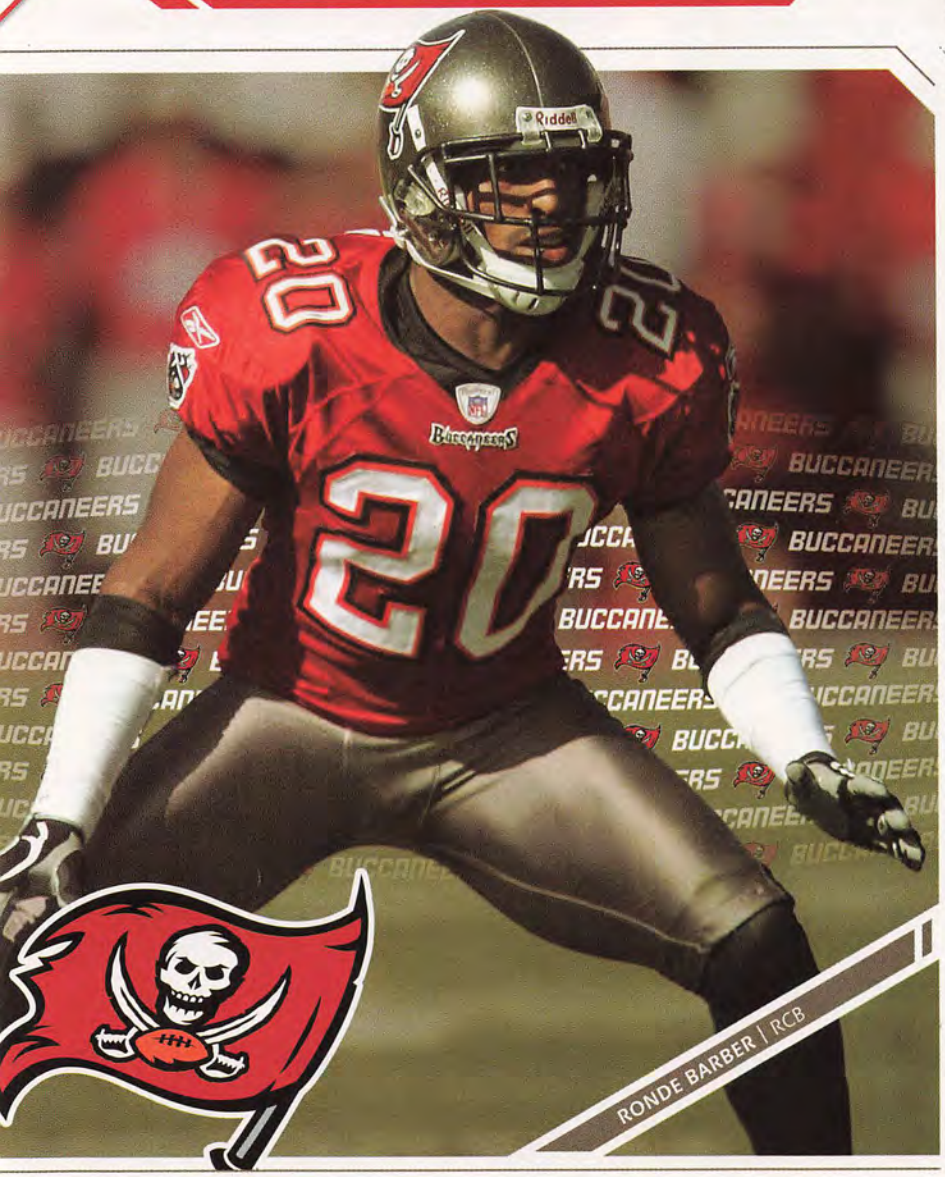
**NFC SOUTH**

- 2006 Record: 4-12

www.buccaneers.com

- RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM

Capacity: 65,657 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 813-879-2827




## Do Gruden's Bucs stop here?

It's a boom-or-bust season in Tampa Bay, where big changes await if a turnaround isn't produced.

The busiest men in the NFC South—and maybe all of the NFL—during the offseason may have been Tampa Bay Coach Jon Gruden and General Manager Bruce Allen.

Coming off a disastrous 4-12 season, Gruden and Allen knew major changes were needed. They orchestrated big overhauls on offense and defense in an effort to get the 2005 NFC South champions back into the playoff hunt.

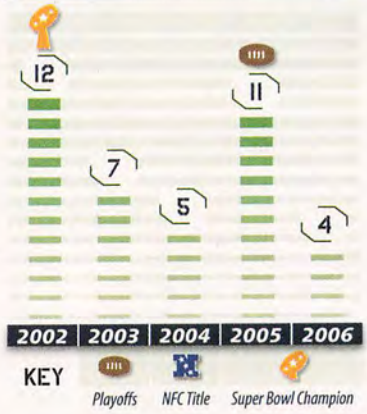
That's pretty much what Gruden and Allen have to do to keep their jobs.

Both the coach and general manager are signed through 2008, but anything less than a playoff berth this season will likely get them fired.

They've done just about everything possible—collecting quarterbacks as if they were baseball cards and bringing youth to an aging defense—to prevent that from happening. After posting losing records in three of the last four seasons, Gruden needs to win now.

That's why Gruden signed free-agent quarterback Jeff Garcia, traded for

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND




### PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| QB | Jeff Garcia |
| FB | B.J. Askew |
| RB | Cadillac Williams |
| LT | Luke Petitgout |
| LG | Davin Joseph |
| C | John Wade |
| RG | Arron Sears |
| RT | Jeremy Trueblood |
| TE | Alex Smith |
| WR | Joey Galloway |
| WR | Michael Clayton |

**DEFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| LE | Gaines Adams |
| LT | Chris Hovan |
| RT | Kevin Carter |
| RE | Simeon Rice |
| LLB | Cato June |
| MLB | Barrett Ruud |
| RLB | Derrick Brooks |
| LCB | Brian Kelly |
| RCB | Ronde Barber |
| SS | Jermaine Phillips |
| FS | Will Allen |

**SPECIAL TEAMS**

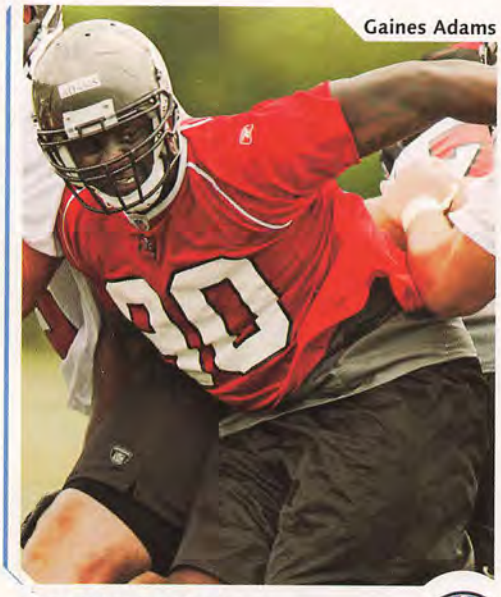
| | |
|---|---|
| P | Josh Bidwell |
| K | Matt Bryant |
| PR | Chad Owens |
| KR | Chad Owens |

### POWER RATINGS

DOUG BENC / GETTY IMAGES

## THE BOOK ON ... Cadillac Williams *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"His sophomore slump wasn't his fault at all. Once [Chris] Simms went down, they couldn't run the ball because defenses knew [Bruce] Gradkowski couldn't beat them throwing the ball, so they just put everybody up at the line. Plus, their offensive line wasn't very good and there was just no room for him to run. The offensive line should be a good bit better this year and they've got the quarterback situation worked out now. I look for Cadillac to bounce back and have a very big year. He'd make himself even more valuable if he'd get better as a receiver out of the backfield."



Gaines Adams

## DRAFT REPORT

Unable to trade up and acquire Calvin Johnson and losing out on OT Joe Thomas, the Buccaneers focused on adding youth to an aging defense. **Gaines Adams** excels as a pass rusher and will eventually replace Simeon Rice. **Arron Sears** played offensive tackle in college, but will compete for a starting job at guard in Tampa Bay. **Sabby Piscitelli** was an underrated safety who will upgrade Tampa Bay's pass defense. **Quincy Black** is a superb athlete who could be groomed to replace Derrick Brooks. **Tanard Jackson** can play cornerback or safety and was a very good fourth-round pick. Defensive end **Greg Peterson**, OLB **Adam Hayward**, OT **Chris Denman**, CB **Marcus Hamilton** and RB **Kenneth Darby** have the look of practice squad-type prospects. Not obtaining Johnson could be just what the franchise needed, so that several other positions could be addressed.

**GRADE C+**

Jake Plummer and re-signed Chris Simms. After Simms went down for the season with a spleen injury early last year, Gruden discovered the importance of depth at that position.

Forced to play rookie Bruce Gradkowski at quarterback, the Bucs weren't able to throw the ball and defenses were able to load up on running back Cadillac Williams. Without any kind of consistency on offense, the aging defense was forced to spend way too much time on the field.

To make sure that doesn't happen again, Gruden covered all of his bases at quarterback. Gradkowski returns, but he's likely to be no higher than third on the depth chart. With Plummer expected to retire, the Bucs could have one of the NFL's more interesting training camps.

Garcia and Simms are likely to battle for the job and Gruden is quite capable of flip-flopping quarterbacks at any time during the season. But Garcia, who resurrected his career filling in for Donovan McNabb in Philadelphia last season, might give the Bucs their best shot to win right away. Garcia is a poised veteran and he's very experienced in the West Coast offense. Simms has had some bright moments, but has never been able to get a firm hold on the starting job because he's more of a vertical passer.

However the quarterback situation plays out, there will be a new wrinkle in the offense. Gruden has finally decided to install the shotgun formation to try to buy his quarterbacks more time. That's not the only thing Gruden has done in order to protect the QBs.

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | Adams, Gaines | DE | 6-5 | 260 | Clemson |
| 2 | 3 | Sears, Arron | G | 6-4 | 320 | Tennessee |
| 2 | 32 | Piscitelli, Sabby | S | 6-3 | 224 | Oregon State |
| 3 | 4 | Black, Quincy | LB | 6-3 | 227 | New Mexico |
| 4 | 7 | Jackson, Tanard | CB | 6-1 | 193 | Syracuse |
| 5 | 4 | Peterson, Greg | DE | 6-5 | 280 | North Carolina Central |
| 6 | 8 | Hayward, Adam | LB | 6-0 | 235 | Portland State |
| 7 | 4 | Denman, Chris | T | 6-6 | 305 | Fresno State |
| 7 | 35 | Hamilton, Marcus | CB | 5-11 | 187 | Virginia |
| 7 | 36 | Darby, Kenneth | RB | 5-11 | 215 | Alabama |

## THE COUNT

**33**

Total rushing touchdowns for the Buccaneers over the past four seasons. By comparison, San Diego Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson has 76 in that span.

**100**

Regular-season wins by Tampa Bay in 12 seasons since Malcolm Glazer purchased the franchise on Jan. 16, 1995. The Bucs had just 87 wins the previous 19 years since entering the league in 1976.

**176**

Consecutive starts by linebacker Derrick Brooks, the longest active streak among all NFL defensive players.

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1 @ *Seattle***
SEPT. 9 | 4:15
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 2 vs. *New Orleans***
SEPT. 16 | 1:00
**MUST-SEE GAME**
*The Bucs won't have to wait long to see where they stand in the NFC South. They'll play host to New Orleans in Week Two in a game that will show if all of the offseason changes were enough.*
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 3 vs. *St. Louis***
SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 4 @ *Carolina***
SEPT. 30 | 4:05
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 5 @ *Indianapolis***
OCT. 7 | 4:05
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 6 vs. *Tennessee***
OCT. 14 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 7 @ *Detroit***
OCT. 21 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 8 vs. *Jacksonville***
OCT. 28 | 4:05
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 9 vs. *Arizona***
NOV. 4 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 10 *OPEN DATE***

**WEEK 11 @ *Atlanta***
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 12 vs. *Washington***
NOV. 25 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 13 @ *New Orleans***
DEC. 2 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 14 @ *Houston***
DEC. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 15 vs. *Atlanta***
DEC. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 16 @ *San Francisco***
DEC. 23 | 8:15
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 17 vs. *Carolina***
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

PAUL ABELL / TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 0-27 | Baltimore |
| 09/17 | L | 3-14 | at Atlanta |
| 09/24 | L | 24-26 | Carolina |
| 10/08 | L | 21-24 | at New Orleans |
| 10/15 | W | 14-13 | Cincinnati |
| 10/22 | W | 23-21 | Philadelphia |
| 10/29 | L | 3-17 | at New York Giants |
| 11/05 | L | 14-31 | New Orleans |
| 11/13 | L | 10-24 | at Carolina |
| 11/19 | W | 20-17 | Washington |
| 11/23 | L | 10-38 | at Dallas |
| 12/03 | L | 3-20 | at Pittsburgh |
| 12/10 | L | 6-17 | Atlanta |
| 12/17 | L | 31-34 | at Chicago |
| 12/24 | W | 22-7 | at Cleveland |
| 12/31 | L | 7-23 | Seattle |

WON 4, LOST 12

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C. Williams | 225 | 798 | 3.5 | 38 | 1 |
| Pittman | 50 | 245 | 4.9 | 32 | 1 |
| Alstott | 60 | 171 | 2.9 | 17 | 3 |
| Gradkowski | 41 | 161 | 3.9 | 14 | 0 |
| Graham | 11 | 59 | 5.4 | 17 | 0 |
| Clayton | 5 | 41 | 8.2 | 27 | 0 |
| Stovall | 2 | 29 | 14.5 | 18 | 0 |
| Galloway | 2 | 9 | 4.5 | 7 | 0 |
| Simms | 4 | 7 | 1.8 | 3 | 1 |
| Rattay | 4 | 3 | 0.8 | 4 | 0 |
| **Buccaneers** | 404 | 1523 | 3.8 | 38 | 6 |
| **Opponents** | 497 | 1917 | 3.9 | 57 | 11 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Galloway | 62 | 1057 | 17.0 | 64t | 7 |
| Pittman | 47 | 405 | 8.6 | 25 | 0 |
| Smith | 35 | 250 | 7.1 | 27 | 3 |
| Hilliard | 34 | 339 | 10.0 | 44t | 2 |
| Clayton | 33 | 356 | 10.8 | 27 | 1 |
| C. Williams | 30 | 196 | 6.5 | 21 | 0 |
| Alstott | 21 | 85 | 4.0 | 18 | 0 |
| Becht | 18 | 115 | 6.4 | 13 | 1 |
| Stovall | 7 | 102 | 14.6 | 27 | 0 |
| Warren | 5 | 63 | 12.6 | 26 | 0 |
| Moore | 1 | 9 | 9.0 | 9 | 0 |
| Jolley | 1 | 7 | 7.0 | 7 | 0 |
| Sowell | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Graham | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| **Buccaneers** | 296 | 2994 | 10.1 | 64t | 14 |
| **Opponents** | 301 | 3520 | 11.7 | 52t | 26 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gradkowski | 328 | 177 | 1661 | 9 | 9 |
| Rattay | 101 | 61 | 748 | 4 | 2 |
| Simms | 106 | 58 | 585 | 1 | 7 |
| **Buccaneers** | 535 | 296 | 2994 | 14 | 18 |
| **Opponents** | 493 | 301 | 3520 | 26 | 11 |

**SACKS**

Spires 5, D. White 5, Wyms 5, Quarles 2.5, Hovan 2, Rice 2, Nece 1.5, Bolden 1, Phillips 1

BUCCANEERS 25, OPPONENTS 33

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Buccaneers)*

"They finally brought some youth in on defense and that's something they should have worked on a couple years ago. Monte Kiffin's a great defensive coordinator, but he was running out of people to work with. Now, he's got them. The rookie [Gaines Adams] is going to help the pass rush a lot and that's going to help the entire defense. Simeon Rice may be moody, but he can still play when he wants to. If they can get him motivated, the defense could be pretty good. ... Jeff Garcia's a great fit in this offense. But they need Michael Clayton to really step up for the passing game to be good. ... A lot of people think Derrick Brooks is done. Yeah, he's not nearly as fast as he was, but he still tackles everybody he can get to."

He brought in veteran free-agent left tackle Luke Petitgout from the Giants and made some other adjustments on the offensive line. The Bucs used a second-round pick on Tennessee's Arron Sears and he's likely to start right away at right guard, next to right tackle Jeremy Trueblood, who's coming off a solid rookie year. Right guard Davin Joseph also is coming off a promising rookie season and the Bucs will let John Wade, Dan Buenning and Matt Lehr battle for the starting job at center.

The Bucs were often physically dominated up front in recent years and Offensive Line Coach Bill Muir has drawn plenty of criticism. But Muir now has a much bigger and physical group of players, which should help Tampa Bay run the ball more effectively.

No one will benefit from that more than Williams, who hit a sophomore slump after an outstanding rookie year. With a better line in front of him and the addition of fullback B.J. Askew from the Jets, Williams should get plenty of blocking. He'll also get some help from third-down back Michael Pittman, who's an excellent receiver out of the backfield.

Askew's arrival means Mike Alstott, one of the most popular players in Tampa Bay history, won't be playing a lot. But Alstott still could get some quality carries in short-yardage and goal-line situations.

If the running game can rebound, the passing attack should take a huge step forward. Veteran Joey Galloway remains the No. 1 threat, but the Bucs need to get more out of the rest of their receivers. Michael Clayton has had two disappointing years after an outstanding rookie season and the coaching staff is down on him. Maurice Stovall could challenge Clayton for a starting job. Veteran David Boston is a wild card because he's been out of the league, but he's expected to come to training camp in good health and hoping to recapture the form he had early in his career.

At tight end, Alex Smith should take a big leap in his third season, while Anthony Becht will continue to be used primarily as a blocker.

Tampa Bay's defense, one of the league's most dominant for the last decade, slipped to 17th in the NFL last

### DID YOU KNOW

In 2006, the Buccaneers' opponents passer rating was 91.0 percent, the second-highest mark in the franchise's 31-year history. Only the 1994 squad was worse, allowing a passer rating of 91.2.

Tampa Bay is the only team in the NFL that has never returned a kickoff for a touchdown. Entering the 2007 season, the Bucs have had 1,825 chances.

Ronde Barber is the only cornerback in NFL history with at least 20 interceptions and 20 sacks in his career, and one of only seven players (LeRoy Butler, Rodney Harrison, Seth Joyner, Ray Lewis, Wilber Marshall and William Thomas) to accomplish the feat.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**MAURICE STOVALL**
wide receiver

With the coaching staff down on Michael Clayton, Stovall has a chance for a breakout season. Stovall has similar size to Clayton, but better hands and a strong work ethic. He could challenge Clayton for a starting job.

### BUCCANEERS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Joey Galloway** (2004-present) — *Revived his career and got fresh legs in Tampa Bay.*
2. **Mark Carrier** (1987-92) — *Put up big numbers on some very bad teams.*
3. **Keyshawn Johnson** (2000-03) — *Not a current favorite in Tampa Bay, but was very good for a few years.*

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

season and that prompted some changes. Veteran linebacker Shelton Quarles was released and the Bucs went after defense hard in the draft. They used their first-round pick on Clemson defensive end Gaines Adams, who likely will start opposite veteran Simeon Rice.

The changes weren't limited to the draft. The Bucs fired their defensive line coach, Jethro Franklin, and replaced him with NFL veteran Larry Coyer, whose main job will be to revive the pass rush. Veteran end Greg Spires will get plenty of time in the rotation, but his quickness is fading and he's not as much of a factor as a pass rusher.

Chris Hovan has become one of the most dependable nose tackles in the league and the Bucs parted ways with under tackle Anthony McFarland midway through last season. McFarland never quite lived up to his potential and the Bucs believe veteran Kevin Carter is a better fit because he has more size and can get pressure inside. Tampa Bay also traded for former Kansas City first-round pick Ryan Sims and he'll rotate in behind Hovan and Carter.

With Quarles' departure, Derrick Brooks is the last dinosaur in what once was the league's best linebacker corps. There's no doubt Brooks has slowed, but he's still better than most. The Bucs will try to lighten his load with more fresh legs in the middle and on the strongside.

Barrett Ruud will take over for Quarles in the middle and Tampa Bay signed Indianapolis free agent Cato June to play the strongside because he brings excellent cover skills.

The coverage in the secondary is still in good hands because veteran cornerbacks Ronde Barber and Brian Kelly remain in place and Phillip Buchanon is a very solid third corner. Safeties Will Allen and Jermaine Phillips sometimes had trouble stopping deep passes last season, but an improved pass rush should help. Rookies Sabby Piscitelli and Tanard Jackson could challenge for playing time at safety and they will definitely be counted on as key cogs on special teams.

The kicking game is solid with kicker Matt Bryant and punter Josh Bidwell, but the return game needs to improve. The Bucs are hoping Chad Owens can step in and be an upgrade over Mark Jones as the main return man.

Gruden and Allen spent the offseason working to put all the parts in place. If they're the right ones, they could jump back into the playoff hunt.

**FINAL GRADE** 77

STOCK REPORT ◆▶ STEADY

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Sammy Davis,** CB (SF)

*A former No. 1 pick by the Chargers, Davis never quite panned out in San Diego. But the Bucs believe he has a chance to succeed in the Tampa-2 system. He'll play behind Ronde Barber and Brian Kelly, but could get a fair amount of playing time.*

- Patrick Chukwurah, LB (DEN)
- Jake Plummer, QB (trade, DEN)
- Kevin Carter, DE (MIA)
- B.J. Askew, FB (NYJ)
- Luke Petitgout, OT (NYG)
- Jeff Garcia, QB (PHI)
- Cato June, LB (IND)
- Jerramy Stevens, TE (SEA)
- Matt Lehr, OG (ATL)
- Ryan Sims, DT (trade, KC)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Sean Mahan, C/G (PIT)
- Dewayne White, DE (DET)
- Cornell Green, OT (OAK)

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 270.1 | 29 |
| Rushing | 95.2 | 28 |
| Passing | 174.9 | 26 |
| Scoring | 211 | 31 |
| Punt Returns | 6.5 | 30 |
| Kick Returns | 21.4 | 25 |
| Red Zone TD % | 43.2 | 25 |
| Total Defense | 329.4 | 17 |
| Against Rush | 119.8 | 17 |
| Against Pass | 209.6 | 19 |
| Points Allowed | 353 | 21 |
| Interceptions | 11 | 28t |
| Sacks | 25 | 30t |
| Turnover Diff. | -12 | 30 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 237 | 82 | 133 | 22 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 37 | 144 | 16 | 11 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 14 | 0 | 3 |

## BUCCANEERS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Garcia, Jeff | QB | 6-1 | 200 | 02/24/1970 | 8 | San Jose State |
| 5 | Gradkowski, Bruce | QB | 6-1 | 222 | 01/27/1983 | 1 | Toledo |
| 12 | McCown, Luke | QB | 6-3 | 212 | 07/12/1981 | 1 | Louisiana Tech |
| 16 | Plummer, Jake | QB | 6-2 | 212 | 12/19/1974 | 10 | Arizona State |
| 2 | Simms, Chris | QB | 6-4 | 220 | 08/29/1980 | 3 | Texas |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 72 | Buenning, Dan | G | 6-4 | 320 | 10/26/1981 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 62 | Clinkscale, Jonathan | G | 6-3 | 304 | 04/17/1982 | 0 | Wisconsin |
| 69 | Davis, Anthony | T | 6-4 | 329 | 03/27/1980 | 3 | Virginia Tech |
| 48 | Economos, Andrew | C | 6-1 | 250 | 06/24/1982 | 1 | Georgia Tech |
| 75 | Joseph, Davin | G | 6-3 | 312 | 11/23/1983 | 1 | Oklahoma |
| 73 | Matt Lehr | C | 6-2 | 304 | 04/25/1979 | 7 | Virginia Tech |
| 66 | Mihlhauser, Nick | C | 6-3 | 305 | 07/06/1984 | 0 | Washington State |
| 70 | Penn, Donald | T | 6-5 | 305 | 04/27/1983 | 0 | Utah State |
| 79 | Petitgout, Luke | T | 6-6 | 308 | 06/16/1976 | 8 | Notre Dame |
| 68 | Roland, Dennis | T | 6-9 | 309 | 03/10/1983 | 0 | Georgia |
| 77 | Terry, Jeb | G | 6-5 | 311 | 04/10/1981 | 3 | North Carolina |
| 65 | Trueblood, Jeremy | T | 6-8 | 315 | 05/10/1983 | 1 | Boston College |
| 73 | Tucker, Torrin | T | 6-6 | 315 | 12/25/1979 | 3 | Southern Miss |
| 76 | Wade, John | C | 6-5 | 299 | 01/25/1975 | 9 | Marshall |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 40 | Alstott, Mike | RB | 6-1 | 248 | 12/21/1973 | 11 | Purdue |
| 35 | Askew, B.J. | RB | 6-3 | 233 | 08/19/1980 | 4 | Michigan |
| 28 | Gates, Lionel | RB | 6-0 | 233 | 03/13/1982 | 0 | Louisville |
| 44 | Goldsberry, Jon | RB | 6-1 | 246 | 12/04/1981 | 0 | Purdue |
| 34 | Graham, Earnest | RB | 5-9 | 215 | 01/15/1980 | 3 | Florida |
| 32 | Pittman, Michael | RB | 6-0 | 228 | 08/14/1975 | 9 | Fresno State |
| 24 | Williams, Carnell | RB | 5-11 | 217 | 04/21/1982 | 2 | Auburn |

| # | RECEIVERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 88 | Becht, Anthony | TE | 6-5 | 272 | 08/08/1977 | 7 | West Virginia |
| 89 | Boston, David | WR | 6-2 | 228 | 08/19/1978 | 6 | Ohio State |
| 80 | Clayton, Michael | WR | 6-3 | 215 | 10/13/1982 | 3 | LSU |
| 84 | Galloway, Joey | WR | 5-11 | 197 | 11/20/1971 | 12 | Ohio State |
| 18 | Gessner, Chas | WR | 6-4 | 215 | 08/17/1981 | 0 | Brown |
| 87 | Heinrich, Keith | TE | 6-5 | 255 | 03/19/1979 | 3 | Sam Houston St. |
| 4 | Hill, Efrem | WR | 6-2 | 185 | 07/23/1983 | 0 | Samford |
| 19 | Hilliard, Ike | WR | 5-11 | 210 | 04/05/1976 | 10 | Florida |
| 11 | Jones, Mark | WR | 5-9 | 185 | 11/03/1980 | 3 | Tennessee |
| 15 | Lucas, Chad | WR | 6-1 | 201 | 11/07/1981 | 1 | Alabama State |
| 17 | Owens, Chad | WR | 5-7 | 188 | 04/03/1982 | 2 | Hawaii |
| 81 | Smith, Alex | TE | 6-4 | 258 | 05/22/1982 | 2 | Stanford |
| 86 | Jerramy Stevens | TE | 6-7 | 260 | 11/13/1979 | 6 | Washington |
| 85 | Stovall, Maurice | WR | 6-4 | 229 | 02/21/1985 | 1 | Notre Dame |
| 82 | Warren, Paris | WR | 6-0 | 213 | 09/06/1982 | 1 | Utah |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 92 | Bennett, Charles | DE | 6-3 | 245 | 04/04/1983 | 1 | Clemson |
| 98 | Bradley, Jon | DT | 6-0 | 301 | 01/13/1981 | 3 | Arkansas State |
| 60 | Campbell, Darrell | DT | 6-4 | 295 | 07/06/1981 | 0 | Notre Dame |
| 93 | Carter, Kevin | DE | 6-6 | 305 | 09/21/1973 | 12 | Florida |
| 71 | Haye, Jovan | DE | 6-2 | 290 | 06/21/1982 | 2 | Vanderbilt |
| 95 | Hovan, Chris | DT | 6-2 | 298 | 05/12/1978 | 7 | Boston College |
| 91 | Jenkins, Julian | DT | 6-3 | 276 | 10/25/1983 | 1 | Stanford |
| 97 | Rice, Simeon | DE | 6-5 | 268 | 02/24/1974 | 11 | Illinois |
| 98 | Sims, Ryan | DT | 6-4 | 315 | 05/04/1981 | 6 | North Carolina |
| 97 | Smith, Kenny | DT | 6-4 | 303 | 09/08/1977 | 3 | Alabama |
| 94 | Spires, Greg | DE | 6-1 | 265 | 08/12/1974 | 9 | Florida State |
| 96 | Wyms, Ellis | DE | 6-3 | 290 | 04/12/1979 | 6 | Mississippi State |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 46 | Adams, Blue | CB | 5-10 | 184 | 10/15/1979 | 3 | Cincinnati |
| 26 | Allen, Will | S | 6-1 | 200 | 06/17/1982 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 20 | Barber, Ronde | CB | 5-10 | 184 | 04/07/1975 | 10 | Virginia |
| 31 | Buchanon, Phillip | CB | 5-11 | 185 | 09/19/1980 | 5 | Miami (FL) |
| 27 | Cox, Torrie | CB | 5-9 | 181 | 10/29/1980 | 3 | Pittsburgh |
| 22 | Davis, Sammy | CB | 6-1 | 195 | 04/08/1980 | 4 | Texas A&M |
| 37 | Hendricks, Carlos | CB | 5-11 | 190 | 08/31/1983 | 0 | UAB |
| 25 | Kelly, Brian | CB | 5-11 | 193 | 01/14/1976 | 9 | USC |
| 30 | Nicholson, Donte | S | 6-1 | 216 | 12/18/1981 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 39 | Pearson, Kalvin | S | 5-10 | 190 | 10/22/1978 | 3 | Grambling State |
| 23 | Phillips, Jermaine | S | 6-1 | 214 | 03/27/1979 | 5 | Georgia |
| 21 | Zemaitis, Alan | CB | 6-2 | 202 | 08/24/1982 | 0 | Penn State |

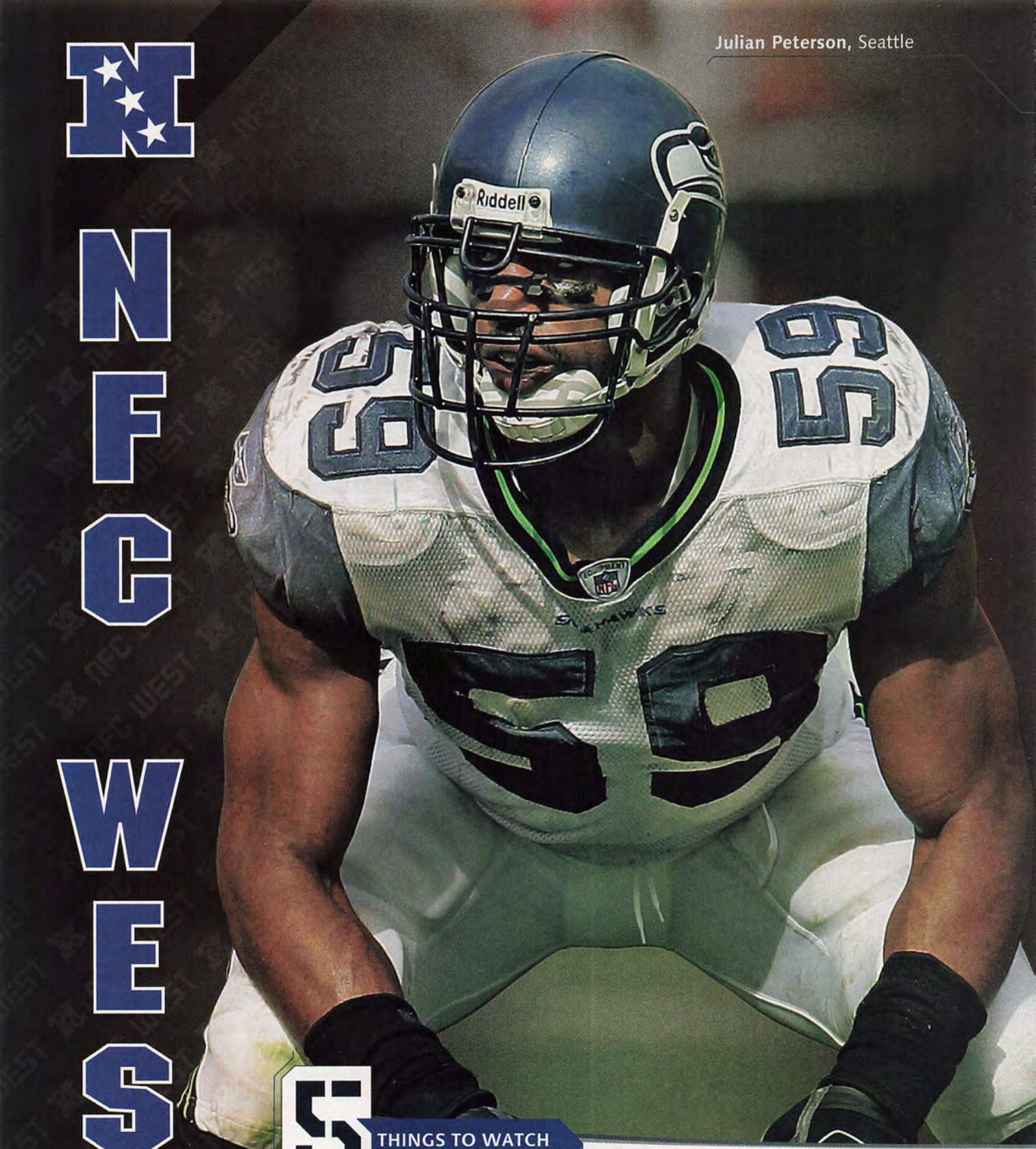
| # | LINEBACKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 55 | Brooks, Derrick | LB | 6-0 | 235 | 04/18/1973 | 12 | Florida State |
| 52 | Cash, Antoine | LB | 6-1 | 223 | 03/05/1982 | 2 | Southern Miss |
| 54 | Chukwurah, Patrick | LB | 6-1 | 250 | 03/01/1979 | 5 | Wyoming |
| 59 | June, Cato | LB | 6-0 | 227 | 11/18/1979 | 4 | Michigan |
| 56 | Nece, Ryan | LB | 6-3 | 224 | 02/24/1979 | 5 | UCLA |
| 51 | Ruud, Barrett | LB | 6-2 | 241 | 05/20/1983 | 2 | Nebraska |
| 50 | Winborn, Jamie | LB | 5-11 | 242 | 05/14/1979 | 6 | Vanderbilt |

| # | KICKERS | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Bidwell, Josh | P | 6-3 | 220 | 03/13/1976 | 7 | Oregon |
| 3 | Bryant, Matt | K | 5-9 | 200 | 05/29/1975 | 5 | Baylor |

**JON GRUDEN,** HEAD COACH

**Richard Bisaccia,** special teams coord.; **Casey Bradley,** linebackers; **Bob Casullo,** tight ends; **Larry Coyer,** asst. head coach/def. line; **Paul Hackett,** quarterbacks; **Monte Kiffin,** def. coord.; **Aaron Kromer,** senior asst./off. line; **Jimmy Lake,** asst. def. backs; **Richard Mann,** wide receivers; **Raheem Morris,** def. backs; **Bill Muir,** off. coord./off. line; **Art Valero,** asst. head coach/running backs

# NFC WEST




## 5 THINGS TO WATCH

1. Either Seattle's Matt Hasselbeck and Shaun Alexander bounce back to 2005 form or the window of opportunity keeps closing for Coach Mike Holmgren and his Seahawks, who are counting on better luck with their health than anything else they did in the offseason.

2. San Francisco's Frank Gore and St. Louis' Steven Jackson are coming off monster seasons, finishing first and third in NFC rushing. Can they keep up their workhorse ways? Neither likes to leave games, but the trend is toward splitting more time, not only to protect health but to increase productivity.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

1 SEAHAWKS 180

2 RAMS 184

3 49ERS 188

4 CARDINALS 192

## West will likely be won by team that finds a defense

By Don Pierson, *Chicago Tribune*

In a league where nothing is supposed to stay the same, it seems the Seattle Seahawks always end up on top of the NFC West and the Arizona Cardinals always end up at the bottom. It's not really always, but it just seems that way.

Seattle Coach Mike Holmgren, by far the dean of the division, greets another new challenger in Ken Whisenhunt of the Arizona Cardinals, following the St. Louis Rams' Scott Linehan last year and the San Francisco 49ers' Mike Nolan two years ago.

The 49ers even beat the Seahawks twice last season, just like the Rams did in 2004, and still the Seahawks managed to emerge as division winners.

Last season, only four games separated the 9-7 Seahawks from the 5-11 Cardinals in the league's tightest division. Does that mean the pack is closing fast? Does it mean Seattle is fading? Or will the status quo prevail once again?

Since the Seahawks won a record-tying four games on last-minute field goals by Josh Brown, this was obviously no dominant performance by the 2005 NFC champions.

The strongest challenger to Seattle's reign appears to be the Rams. Why? They had the strongest single unit in the entire division: their offense. It ranked sixth in the league, far ahead of any other offense or defense among the four teams. It also ranked ahead of the Seahawks' seventh-rated special teams, which were best in the division.

No other offensive, defensive or special-teams unit from the NFC West ranked in the top half of the league.

San Francisco made the boldest off-season moves to change that, with Nolan adding potentially four new defensive starters in free agency and drafting six more defensive players, including the top defensive choice in the division, Mississippi's Butkus Award linebacker Patrick Willis.

In a division that traditionally favors stronger offenses than defenses, the Rams have an edge if they can build on last year's offense. Quarterback Marc Bulger had a better year than Seattle's Matt Hasselbeck. Rams receiver Torry Holt was the best in the division and running back Steven Jackson had more combined rushing and receiving yardage than San Francisco's Frank Gore.

Gore, Jackson and Arizona's Edgerrin James all outrushed Seattle's Shaun Alexander, the league MVP in 2005 who missed much of last year with a broken foot.

While injuries decimated the Seattle offense, young quarterbacks Alex Smith of San Francisco and Matt Leinart of Arizona emerged as potential challengers to Hasselbeck and Bulger.

Every team has tried to strengthen its offense around the quarterbacks.

The Seahawks are counting more on improved health than extra bodies, although they believe veteran tight end Marcus Pollard will be a more reliable option than departed Jerramy Stevens, who signed with Tampa Bay. They took a bold chance by trading their leading receiver, Darrell Jackson, to the 49ers, allowing San Francisco to fill a dire need.

Usually, division teams aren't that friendly, but the Seahawks might have felt obliged after signing free-agent linebacker/pass rusher Julian Peterson from San Francisco last season.

The Rams added Tennessee's leading receiver, Drew Bennett, plus productive Miami tight end Randy McMichael to their prolific veteran wideout tandem of Holt and Isaac Bruce.

Besides adding Jackson, the 49ers brought in Ashley Lelie as a possible deep threat and expect a healthy season from last year's heralded rookie tight end, Vernon Davis.

The Cardinals made Penn State offensive tackle Levi Brown the first player drafted in the division and hired offensive linemen Al Johnson and Mike Gandy to help protect new franchise quarterback Leinart.

All this means the team with the most improved defense probably can win. Again, defense is not the strong suit of the division. The Seahawks finished 19th, the Rams 23d, the 49ers 26th and the Cardinals 29th. No other division gave up more points.

So who strengthened their defense the most?

The Seahawks added pass rusher Patrick Kerney from Atlanta and two safeties in Jacksonville's Deon Grant and Brian Russell from Cleveland. They drafted four defensive players in their first five picks.

The Rams traded for Detroit defensive end James Hall and then made Nebraska defensive lineman Adam Carriker their first draft choice. They added linebacker Chris Draft from Carolina, safety Todd Johnson from Chicago, cornerback Mike Rumph from Washington and cornerback Lenny Walls from Kansas City. St. Louis also drafted cornerback Jonathan Wade of the University of Tennessee.

The Cardinals added Detroit safety Terrence Holt, Philadelphia cornerback Roderick Hood, Cleveland cornerback Ralph Brown, Pittsburgh defensive end Rodney Bailey and Seattle defensive end Joe Tafoya. They traded up in the draft to land big defensive tackle Alan Branch, a boom-or-bust type.

But it was the 49ers who made the most defensive moves. With more salary-cap money available than any other team, they signed Buffalo cornerback Nate Clements as well as Philadelphia safety Michael Lewis, New England pass-rushing linebacker Tully Banta-Cain, Baltimore nose tackle Aubrayo Franklin and Tennessee linebacker Colby Bockwoldt. Nolan also changed defensive coordinators, bringing in Greg Manusky from San Diego to help incorporate more 3-4 looks. By adding Willis and five later draft choices, Nolan's 'Niners are ready to make a serious run.

STEVE JACOBSON

**3** Which young-gun quarterback will assert himself faster—San Francisco's Alex Smith or Arizona's Matt Leinart? Their pass-efficiency ratings were less than a point apart last season. Both must adapt to new coordinators.

**4** Can anybody learn to play big-time defense in this division? The Seahawks gave up 21.3 points a game and were the best of the four. Until somebody starts playing some serious D, nobody has a chance to challenge for a Super Bowl.

**5** Say hello to Ken Whisenhunt, the eighth head coach of the Cardinals since they moved to Arizona in 1988. The Cards think they're on the verge of a winning season. No kidding, they really do. Honest.

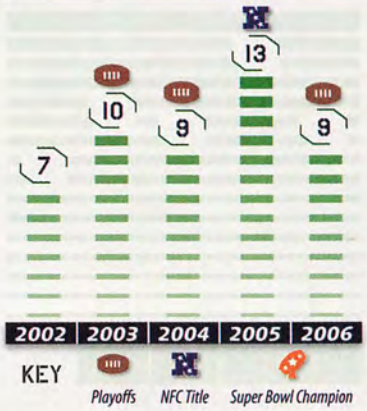
# SEATTLE

1

**NFC WEST**

**2006 Record: 9-7**
www.seahawks.com
**QWEST FIELD**
Capacity: 72,000 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 888-NFL-HAWK

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND




## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Matt Hasselbeck |
| FB | Mack Strong |
| RB | Shaun Alexander |
| LT | Walter Jones |
| LG | Rob Sims |
| C | Chris Spencer |
| RG | Chris Gray |
| RT | Sean Locklear |
| TE | Marcus Pollard |
| WR | Deion Branch |
| WR | D.J. Hackett |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Patrick Kerney |
| LT | Chuck Darby |
| RT | Rocky Bernard |
| RE | Bryce Fisher |
| LLB | Leroy Hill |
| MLB | Lofa Tatupu |
| RLB | Julian Peterson |
| LCB | Kelly Jennings |
| RCB | Marcus Trufant |
| SS | Deon Grant |
| FS | Brian Russell |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Ryan Plackemeier |
| K | Josh Brown |
| PR | Nate Burleson |
| KR | Nate Burleson |

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 4 |
| Quarterbacks | 3 |
| Running Backs | 4 |
| Receivers | 3 |
| Defensive Line | 3 |
| Linebackers | 4 |
| Secondary | 3 |
| Special Teams | 4 |
| Management | 4 |

## Winging it

If the Seahawks can avoid a repeat of last year's injury plague, a second Super Bowl appearance in three seasons is not out of the question.

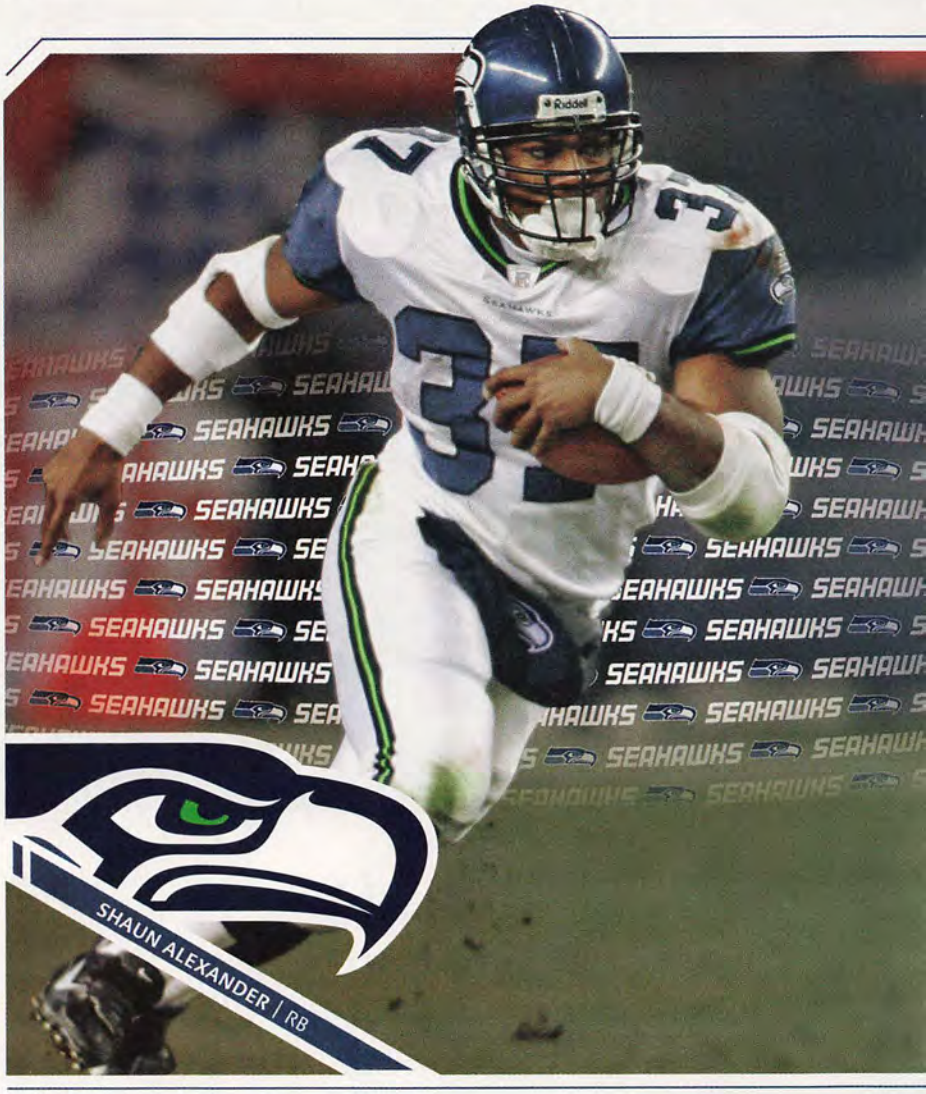
Although the 2006 Seahawks became the first Super Bowl losers to make the following year's playoffs since the 2000 Titans, their 9-7 record and divisional-round loss to Chicago weren't what Coach Mike Holmgren would call a successful season.

He had a good excuse. Nine of the Seahawks' offensive starters missed a total of 48 games because of injury, prompting Holmgren to say, "We never lined up with the team I wanted to line up with."

Assuming better luck this time, the Seahawks believe they remain the team to beat in an NFC West Division with three other squads that haven't had a winning record since 2003.

If nobody is gaining on you, there isn't much incentive to improve, yet the Seahawks sense the time for coasting is past. One of these days, they are going to have to fulfill their potential as a Super Bowl winner or the proverbial window of opportunity is going to slam shut.

RICH GABRIELSON



## THE BOOK ON ... *Walter Jones* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"I saw a list once of best players in the NFL and Jones was first, which seems funny for an offensive lineman, but I'm not sure I'd disagree. To me, the overall key to his ability is his balance. It doesn't matter whether he's anchoring against the bull rush, sliding laterally against edge rushers, drive blocking, getting to linebackers or even pulling downfield—he's hardly ever out of position or knocked off his feet. It's pretty amazing when you think about it.

"He's one of the best ever. It's not that the guy is so strong he flattens people or so quick that he never gets beat; it's just that everything he does seems effortless, always in control. He had a little adjustment period last year after they lost [Steve] Hutchinson and you wonder how long he's got at age 33, but I see no drop-off."

The NFC is not a conference of super teams; thus, the Super Bowl seems within reasonable reach of a bunch of ordinary outfits. The Seahawks, with four winning seasons in a row, like to think they are cream that is on the verge of rising to the top, but you can't fool fans in the coffee capital of the country for too long. They are too wide-awake. They noticed that their team won four games on field goals last year.

And there are areas Seattle must improve in order to keep pace, starting with quarterback Matt Hasselbeck. If he has peaked, the Seahawks cannot hope to achieve their goal before quarterbacks on other teams emerge. Drew Brees found out last season in New Orleans that the NFC can be had. Brees transformed himself from a good AFC quarterback into the best at his position in the NFC.

Like so many teammates, Hasselbeck was a victim of injury, missing four starts with a sprained right knee. He also had cracked fingers in his left hand and problems with his non-throwing shoulder. His accuracy dipped below 60 percent, which it has done three times in the last six years, revealing inconsistency that could eventually doom him. Seneca Wallace looked promising in relief, but not threatening enough for Hasselbeck to be concerned.

Running back Shaun Alexander also missed six starts with injury and his 3.6-yard rushing average was nowhere near the 5.1 clip that made him the 2005 MVP. Either Alexander and Hasselbeck come back with a vengeance in 2007 or the Seahawks sink. Alexander doesn't turn 30 until shortly before his eighth season begins, so he remains in his prime unless the workload is beginning to take its toll. Over the last six years, Alexander has 151 more carries than the now-retired Tiki Barber.

Maurice Morris averaged 3.8 yards per carry in extended relief of Alexander, but the Seahawks do not envision the kind of job-sharing other teams are using at running back. Fullback Mack Strong continues to live up to his last name. He was one of only two Seahawks to start every game last year and will begin his 14th season two days before his 36th birthday. He'll be backed up by Josh Parry.

### SEAHAWKS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Steve Largent** (1976-89)
   *Largent caught a pass in 177 straight games and far surpasses all Seahawks receivers with 819 receptions, 13,089 yards and 100 touchdowns.*
2. **Brian Blades** (1988-98)
   *Caught 80 passes or more twice and went over the 1,000-yard mark four times.*
3. **Darrell Jackson** (2000-06)
   *D-Jack set the Seahawks' single-season receptions mark with 87 in 2004, and the team will miss his big-play ability as he heads to division rival San Francisco.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**DEION BRANCH**
**wide receiver**

He didn't get to Seattle last season until Week Three and had to learn on the fly. He's too talented not to become Matt Hasselbeck's top target. Now that Darrell Jackson is gone, Branch has to give Hasselbeck what he gave Tom Brady in New England.

### DID YOU KNOW

Last season Seattle receivers dropped 11.8 percent of their passes, the highest percentage in the league. They also dropped 30 passes by Matt Hasselbeck alone, which was the third-highest total for any quarterback in the NFL, despite the fact he only played 12 games.

Seahawks kicker Josh Brown's four game-winning field goals in the final minute of regulation or overtime last year tied a single-season NFL record held by Ryan Longwell.

Shaun Alexander reached 107 total touchdowns in fewer games (106) than any player, except San Diego's LaDanian Tomlinson (111 touchdowns in 95 games) and Emmitt Smith (115 scores in 108 games).

### THE COUNT

| 13 | 21-3 | 10.5 |
|---|---|---|
| Different players to record a sack for Seattle in 2006; only Atlanta and San Diego had more (14 each). | The Seahawks' home record when Shaun Alexander rushes for more than 100 yards. | Sacks left tackle Walter Jones allowed in 2006, which led the NFC and was a career high for the 10-year veteran after he gave up just 11 sacks over the previous three seasons. |

## 2007 SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 | vs. *Tampa Bay* | SEPT. 9 | 4:15 |
| WEEK 2 | @ *Arizona* | SEPT. 16 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 3 | vs. *Cincinnati* | SEPT. 23 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 4 | @ *San Francisco* | SEPT. 30 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 5 | @ *Pittsburgh* | OCT. 7 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 6 | vs. *New Orleans* | OCT. 14 | 8:15 |
| WEEK 7 | vs. *St. Louis* | OCT. 21 | 4:15 |
| WEEK 8 | *OPEN DATE* | | |
| WEEK 9 | @ *Cleveland* | NOV. 4 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 10 | vs. *San Francisco* | NOV. 12 | 8:30 |
| WEEK 11 | vs. *Chicago* | NOV. 18 | 8:15 |
| WEEK 12 | @ *St. Louis* | NOV. 25 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 13 | @ *Philadelphia* | DEC. 2 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 14 | vs. *Arizona* | DEC. 9 | 4:05 |
| WEEK 15 | @ *Carolina* | DEC. 16 | 1:00 |
| WEEK 16 | vs. *Baltimore* | DEC. 23 | 4:15 |
| WEEK 17 | @ *Atlanta* | DEC. 30 | 1:00 |

W SCORE ▼ L

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*It's the first game between these teams since Super Bowl XL in Detroit. A lot has changed, including a new coach for the Steelers, Mike Tomlin. Coming off a trip to San Francisco, Seattle can test its toughness in another unfriendly environment.*

RICH GABRIELSON; HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 9-6 | at Detroit |
| 09/17 | W | 21-10 | Arizona |
| 09/24 | W | 42-30 | New York Giants |
| 10/01 | L | 6-37 | at Chicago |
| 10/15 | W | 30-28 | at St. Louis |
| 10/22 | L | 13-31 | Minnesota |
| 10/29 | L | 28-35 | at Kansas City |
| 11/06 | W | 16-0 | Oakland |
| 11/12 | W | 24-22 | St. Louis |
| 11/19 | L | 14-20 | at San Francisco |
| 11/27 | W | 34-24 | Green Bay |
| 12/03 | W | 23-20 | at Denver |
| 12/10 | L | 21-27 | at Arizona |
| 12/14 | L | 14-24 | San Francisco |
| 12/24 | L | 17-20 | San Diego |
| 12/31 | W | 23-7 | at Tampa Bay |

**WON 9, LOST 7**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alexander | 252 | 896 | 3.6 | 33t | 7 |
| Morris | 161 | 604 | 3.8 | 29 | 0 |
| Strong | 33 | 149 | 4.5 | 17 | 1 |
| Wallace | 12 | 122 | 10.2 | 37 | 0 |
| Hasselbeck | 18 | 110 | 6.1 | 19 | 0 |
| Branch | 4 | 30 | 7.5 | 19 | 0 |
| Weeks | 3 | 8 | 2.7 | 3 | 0 |
| Engram | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| **Seahawks** | 484 | 1923 | 4.0 | 37 | 8 |
| **Opponents** | 441 | 2029 | 4.6 | 95t | 12 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson | 63 | 956 | 15.2 | 72t | 10 |
| Branch | 53 | 725 | 13.7 | 38t | 4 |
| Hackett | 45 | 610 | 13.6 | 47 | 4 |
| Strong | 29 | 159 | 5.5 | 13 | 0 |
| Engram | 24 | 290 | 12.1 | 25 | 1 |
| Stevens | 22 | 231 | 10.5 | 26 | 4 |
| Burleson | 18 | 192 | 10.7 | 36 | 2 |
| Alexander | 12 | 48 | 4.0 | 14 | 0 |
| Morris | 11 | 46 | 4.2 | 27 | 0 |
| Mili | 10 | 69 | 6.9 | 15 | 0 |
| Heller | 4 | 32 | 8.0 | 12 | 1 |
| Parry | 1 | 11 | 11.0 | 11 | 0 |
| **Seahawks** | 292 | 3369 | 11.5 | 72t | 26 |
| **Opponents** | 299 | 3538 | 11.8 | 71t | 23 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hasselbeck | 371 | 210 | 2442 | 18 | 15 |
| Wallace | 141 | 82 | 927 | 8 | 7 |
| **Seahawks** | 512 | 292 | 3369 | 26 | 22 |
| **Opponents** | 504 | 299 | 3538 | 23 | 12 |

**SACKS**

Peterson 10, Fisher 4, Wistrom 4, Bernard 3.5, Darby 3.5, Davis 3, Tapp 3, Terrill 3, Hamlin 2, Hill 2, Tatupu 1.5, Lewis 1, Tubbs 0.5

**SEAHAWKS 41, OPPONENTS 49**

## DRAFT REPORT

By dealing its first-round draft choice to New England for Deion Branch during the 2006 season, Seattle had to wait until the second round to make its first selection. **Josh Wilson** lacks height, but has blazing speed and will provide quality depth at cornerback. **Brandon Mebane** is an aggressive one-gap defensive tackle who fits well in the Seattle scheme. **Baraka Atkins** is a smooth athlete with experience at defensive tackle and end. **Mansfield Wrotto** was a three-year starter along the defensive line before moving to offensive tackle and impressing as a senior. **Will Herring** is an OLB/S 'tweener who will need to earn a roster spot on special teams. **Courtney Taylor** lacks great speed, but has very good hands and could be a surprise as a sixth-round draft choice. Wide receiver **Jordan Kent** has athletic ability, but is still learning the position and may need a year on the practice squad. **Steve Vallos** brings versatility and the ability to play offensive tackle or guard. The addition of Branch keeps this from being one of the more disappointing drafts.

**GRADE C**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 23 | Wilson, Josh | CB | 5-10 | 182 | Maryland |
| 3 | 22 | Mebane, Brandon | DT | 6-3 | 295 | California |
| 4 | 21 | Atkins, Baraka | DE | 6-4 | 264 | Miami (FL) |
| 4 | 25 | Wrotto, Mansfield | G | 6-3 | 310 | Georgia Tech |
| 5 | 24 | Herring, Will | LB | 6-3 | 221 | Auburn |
| 6 | 23 | Taylor, Courtney | WR | 6-2 | 206 | Auburn |
| 6 | 36 | Kent, Jordan | WR | 6-5 | 210 | Oregon |
| 7 | 22 | Vallos, Steve | T | 6-3 | 290 | Wake Forest |

The Seahawks traded their 2007 first-round draft choice early last season to New England for wide receiver Deion Branch to strengthen a receiving corps they once thought was set for years. Branch caught on fast enough to finish second to Darrell Jackson in receptions and yardage and figures to emerge as Hasselbeck's go-to guy this year after the Seahawks traded Jackson, who has been hampered by knee injuries.

Although Holmgren didn't want Jackson to go as much as General Manager Tim Ruskell did, trading him to division rival San Francisco was a bigger surprise than the trade itself.

D.J. Hackett, Bobby Engram and Nate Burleson give the Seahawks depth and experience, but Holmgren is always looking for more pass catchers. After tight end Jerramy Stevens wore out his welcome, the Seahawks added veteran Marcus Pollard from Detroit as a stop-gap and he'll help Will Heller lend some stability there. Pollard is a more reliable receiver than Stevens despite his age, 35.

The Seahawks continue to retool their offensive line. Unsung, steady center Robbie Tobeck retired and the team failed to lure free-agent guard Kris Dielman from San Diego in the offseason to fill last year's loss of Steve Hutchinson in a controversial transaction with Minnesota that marked the beginning of Seattle's bad fortune.

Although rookie Rob Sims showed promise and started the final three games at left guard, the Seahawks are still waiting for Floyd "Pork Chop" Womack to assert himself. He started nine games while nursing injuries. Chris Spencer will take over at center and Chris Gray remains the right guard until further notice. Sean Locklear is the right tackle and Walter Jones, of course, is the left tackle and only other player besides Strong to start every game last season. At 33, Jones is still performing at a very high level and is likely to stay in his position for as long as he likes. Tom Ashworth is the third

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Seahawks)*

"It's almost like they're daring the other teams in the NFC West to catch them. I was as surprised as anybody when they let Darrell Jackson go to San Francisco. I bet it wasn't [Mike] Holmgren's call. He really didn't need him anymore. He was becoming a pain. But he did score 10 touchdowns. Now Deion Branch and D.J. Hackett have to make that up. ...

"[Matt] Hasselbeck didn't have a good year, but I guess he was hurt. [Patrick] Kerney will help the defense, assuming he's healthy. So will Deon Grant. But they can't count on winning all those games with field goals again. [Shaun] Alexander ran hard late, but he could hit a wall anytime. I can see them slipping back to the pack."

tackle and Ray Willis, a promising prospect, will be joined by rookie Mansfield Wrotto in reserve.

The Seahawks spent their first three draft picks on defense and defensive end Patrick Kerney was the their biggest free-agent signing. He is expected to play left end, as Kerney did for most of his career in Atlanta until injury limited him and the Falcons began to gravitate toward more 3-4 alignments. Left end Bryce Fisher will move to right end to replace departed Grant Wistrom. Darryl Tapp is the third end ahead of rookie Baraka Atkins.

Seattle needs Marcus Tubbs to return strong from injured reserve and assert himself in the middle of the defense. At 320 pounds, he provides much-needed bulk for an undersized unit. Chuck Darby and Rocky Bernard were consistent starters and veteran Russell Davis continues to figure in the rotation, along with rookie Brandon Mebane.

At linebacker, the threesome of Leroy Hill, Lofa Tatupu and Julian Peterson is a strength of this team, although Hill's speed can be better utilized. Peterson led the team with 10 sacks, while Tatupu and Hill finished first and third, respectively, in tackles. Draft pick Will Herring joins holdover reserves Kevin Bentley, Niko Koutouvides and Marquis Cooper on the bench.

Injuries at cornerback left the Seahawks without starters Marcus Trufant and Kelly Herndon for the playoffs. Backup Jimmy Williams also finished the season on injured reserve. Jordan Babineaux had to move from cornerback to safety and then back to corner, while Pete Hunter and Rich Gardner also filled in at cornerback. It was no surprise when cornerback Josh Wilson became the Seahawks' first draft pick in the second round.

The addition of safeties Deon Grant and Brian Russell and the return of Mike Green from injured reserve will dramatically change the look of the secondary, where Michael Boulware is a holdover at strong safety. Both Grant and Russell have been free safeties, but Grant is expected to challenge at strong safety, where Green also used to start for Chicago.

Josh Brown's record-tying four game-winning field goals salvaged the Seahawks' 2006 season. He and second-year punter Ryan Plackemeier lead a good special-teams unit and Burleson may have found his calling as a return specialist, finishing among the top six in the NFC in bringing back both kicks and punts.

**FINAL GRADE**

**86**

STOCK REPORT
DOWN

HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Patrick Kerney**, DE (ATL)

*He should provide the pass rush that Grant Wistrom couldn't. Before Kerney ended up on injured reserve in Atlanta, he was effective.*

- Deon Grant, S (JAC)
- Marcus Pollard, TE (DET)
- Brian Russell, S (CLE)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- J.P. Darche, C (KC)
- Ken Hamlin, DB (DAL)
- Joe Tafoya, DE (ARI)
- D.D. Lewis, LB (DEN)
- Darrell Jackson, WR (trade, SF)
- Jerramy Stevens, TE (TB)
- Robbie Tobeck, C (retired)

> "Lofa [Tatupu] and Matt [Hasselbeck] are proven winners. It's not about potential. This team is ready to go for it right now and I wanted to be a part of that. It's one thing to have the talent to get there, it's another thing to have the character. ..."
>
> *—free-agent acquisition Patrick Kerney on joining the Seahawks*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 311.1 | 19 |
| Rushing | 120.2 | 14 |
| Passing | 190.9 | 19 |
| Scoring | 335 | 14 |
| Punt Returns | 8.7 | 16 |
| Kick Returns | 22.4 | 18 |
| Red Zone TD % | 52.4 | 14 |
| Total Defense | 330.3 | 19 |
| Against Rush | 126.8 | 22 |
| Against Pass | 203.5 | 16 |
| Points Allowed | 341 | 19 |
| Interceptions | 12 | 25t |
| Sacks | 41 | 6t |
| Turnover Diff. | -8 | 27t |

## FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 312 | 112 | 167 | 33 |

## RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 42 | 197 | 22 | 14 |

## TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 26 | 1 | 2 |

## SEAHAWKS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Greene, David | QB | 6-3 | 226 | 06/22/1982 | 0 | Georgia |
| 8 | Hasselbeck, Matt | QB | 6-4 | 223 | 09/25/1975 | 8 | Boston College |
| 15 | Wallace, Seneca | QB | 5-11 | 196 | 08/06/1980 | 2 | Iowa State |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 68 | Ashworth, Tom | T | 6-6 | 305 | 10/10/1977 | 5 | Colorado |
| 62 | Gray, Chris | G | 6-3 | 308 | 06/19/1970 | 14 | Auburn |
| 71 | Jones, Walter | T | 6-5 | 308 | 01/19/1974 | 10 | Florida State |
| 66 | King, Austin | C | 6-5 | 288 | 04/11/1981 | 3 | Northwestern |
| 75 | Locklear, Sean | G | 6-3 | 301 | 05/29/1981 | 3 | N.C. State |
| 63 | Murphy, Jason | G | 6-2 | 303 | 08/07/1982 | 0 | Virginia Tech |
| 60 | Ross, Pat | C | 6-4 | 295 | 03/16/1983 | 0 | Boston College |
| 67 | Sims, Rob | G | 6-4 | 310 | 12/06/1983 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 65 | Spencer, Chris | C | 6-3 | 309 | 03/28/1982 | 2 | Mississippi |
| 74 | Willis, Ray | T | 6-6 | 327 | 08/13/1982 | 2 | Florida State |
| 77 | Womack, Floyd | T | 6-4 | 330 | 11/15/1978 | 6 | Mississippi State |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 37 | Alexander, Shaun | RB | 5-11 | 225 | 08/30/1977 | 7 | Alabama |
| 34 | Kirtman, David | RB | 6-0 | 232 | 02/12/1983 | 0 | USC |
| 20 | Morris, Maurice | RB | 5-11 | 202 | 12/01/1979 | 5 | Oregon |
| 49 | Parry, Josh | RB | 6-2 | 250 | 04/05/1978 | 3 | San Jose State |
| 33 | Scobey, Josh | RB | 6-0 | 220 | 12/11/1979 | 4 | Kansas State |
| 38 | Strong, Mack | RB | 6-0 | 245 | 09/11/1971 | 13 | Georgia |
| 43 | Weaver, Leonard | RB | 6-0 | 251 | 09/23/1982 | 1 | Carson-Newman |
| 30 | Weeks, Marquis | RB | 5-10 | 214 | 10/02/1980 | 1 | Virginia |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 83 | Branch, Deion | WR | 5-9 | 193 | 07/18/1979 | 5 | Louisville |
| 81 | Burleson, Nate | WR | 6-0 | 192 | 08/19/1981 | 4 | Nevada |
| 84 | Engram, Bobby | WR | 5-10 | 188 | 01/07/1973 | 11 | Penn State |
| 18 | Hackett, D.J. | WR | 6-2 | 199 | 07/31/1981 | 2 | Colorado |
| 85 | Heller, Will | TE | 6-6 | 265 | 02/28/1981 | 4 | Georgia Tech |
| 82 | Jackson, Darrell | WR | 5-11 | 201 | 12/06/1978 | 7 | Florida |
| 47 | Joppru, Bennie | TE | 6-4 | 240 | 01/05/1980 | 1 | Michigan |
| 87 | Obomanu, Ben | WR | 6-1 | 205 | 10/30/1983 | 0 | Auburn |
| 88 | Pollard, Marcus | TE | 6-3 | 247 | 02/08/1972 | 12 | Bradley |
| 48 | Rackley, Derek | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 07/18/1977 | 7 | Minnesota |
| 43 | Stephens, Leonard | TE | 6-2 | 250 | 07/09/1978 | 1 | Howard |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 99 | Bernard, Rocky | DT | 6-3 | 293 | 04/19/1979 | 5 | Texas A&M |
| 91 | Darby, Chuck | DT | 6-0 | 298 | 10/22/1975 | 6 | S. Carolina St. |
| 95 | Davis, Russell | DT | 6-4 | 306 | 03/28/1975 | 8 | North Carolina |
| 94 | Fisher, Bryce | DE | 6-3 | 272 | 05/12/1977 | 6 | Air Force |
| 93 | Green, Brandon | DE | 6-3 | 264 | 09/05/1980 | 3 | Rice |
| 97 | Green, Marcus | DT | 6-3 | 305 | 09/27/1983 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 97 | Kerney, Patrick | DE | 6-5 | 273 | 12/30/1976 | 8 | Virginia |
| 77 | McGruder, Lynn | DT | 6-3 | 302 | 02/13/1982 | 0 | Oklahoma |
| 55 | Tapp, Darryl | DE | 6-1 | 265 | 09/13/1984 | 1 | Virginia Tech |
| 92 | Taylor, Eric | DE | 6-2 | 305 | 12/14/1981 | 1 | Memphis |
| 93 | Terrill, Craig | DT | 6-3 | 287 | 06/27/1980 | 3 | Purdue |
| 90 | Tubbs, Marcus | DT | 6-3 | 320 | 05/16/1981 | 3 | Texas |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27 | Babineaux, Jordan | S | 6-0 | 200 | 08/31/1982 | 3 | Southern Arkansas |
| 28 | Boulware, Michael | S | 6-2 | 223 | 09/17/1981 | 3 | Florida State |
| 40 | Celestin, Oliver | S | 6-0 | 207 | 02/25/1981 | 3 | Texas Southern |
| 4 | Davis, Dennis | CB | 6-0 | 185 | 11/24/1982 | 0 | Georgia Tech |
| 26 | Gardner, Rich | CB | 5-10 | 195 | 02/01/1981 | 2 | Penn State |
| 24 | Grant, Deon | S | 6-2 | 210 | 03/14/1979 | 6 | Tennessee |
| 42 | Green, Mike | S | 6-0 | 195 | 12/06/1976 | 6 | Northwestern St. |
| 31 | Herndon, Kelly | CB | 5-10 | 180 | 11/03/1976 | 5 | Toledo |
| 29 | Hunter, Pete | CB | 6-2 | 212 | 05/25/1980 | 4 | Virginia Union |
| 21 | Jennings, Kelly | CB | 5-10 | 178 | 11/30/1982 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 35 | Ross, Gerard | CB | 6-2 | 198 | 12/27/1982 | 0 | Florida State |
| 25 | Russell, Brian | S | 6-2 | 207 | 02/05/1978 | 5 | San Diego State |
| 23 | Trufant, Marcus | CB | 5-11 | 199 | 12/25/1980 | 4 | Washington State |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 57 | Bentley, Kevin | LB | 6-1 | 240 | 12/29/1979 | 5 | Northwestern |
| 58 | Cooper, Marquis | LB | 6-3 | 213 | 03/11/1982 | 3 | Washington |
| 56 | Hill, Leroy | LB | 6-1 | 229 | 09/14/1982 | 2 | Clemson |
| 53 | Koutouvides, Niko | LB | 6-2 | 244 | 03/25/1981 | 3 | Purdue |
| 50 | Laury, Lance | LB | 6-2 | 235 | 01/17/1982 | 1 | South Carolina |
| 59 | Peterson, Julian | LB | 6-3 | 235 | 07/28/1978 | 7 | Michigan State |
| 51 | Tatupu, Lofa | LB | 6-0 | 238 | 11/15/1982 | 2 | USC |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Brown, Josh | K | 6-0 | 202 | 04/29/1979 | 4 | Nebraska |
| 1 | Plackemeier, Ryan | P | 6-3 | 252 | 03/05/1984 | 1 | Wake Forest |

**MIKE HOLMGREN**, HEAD COACH

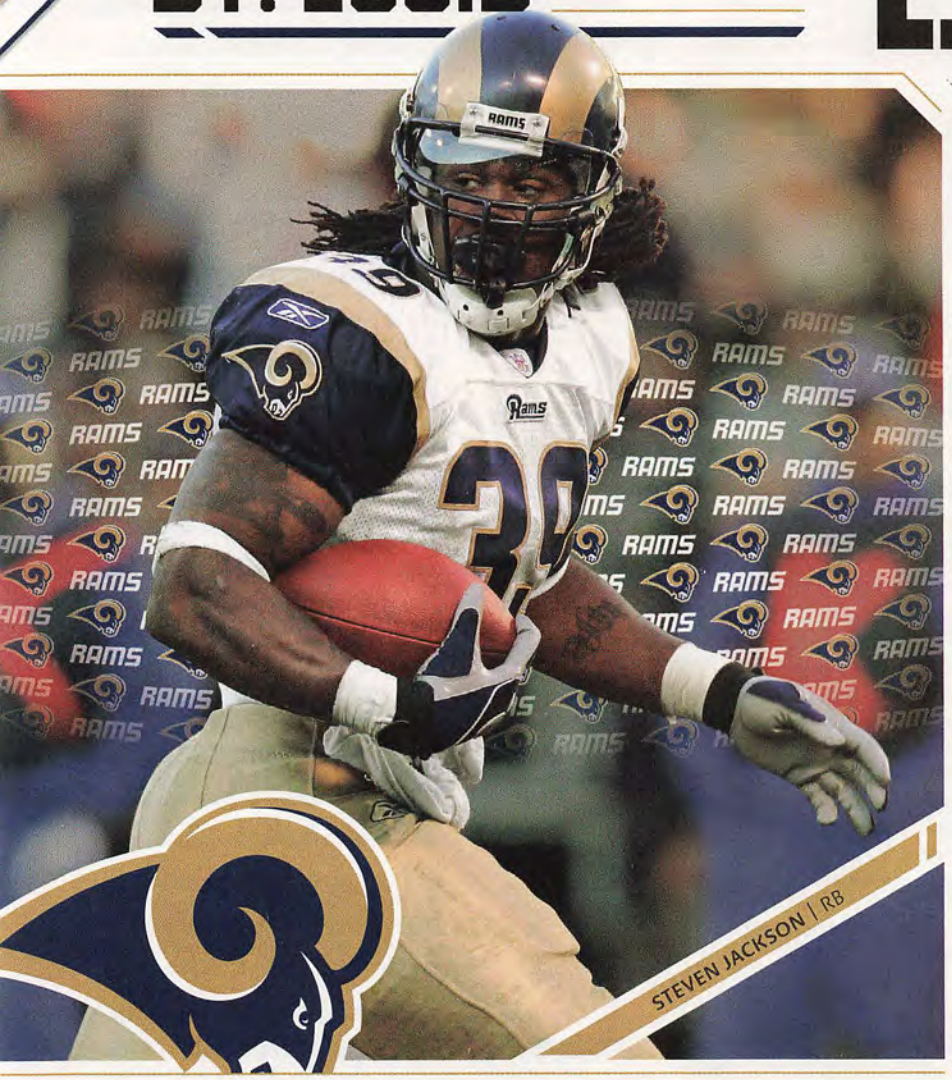
**Bill Laveroni**, off. line; **Gil Haskell**, off. coord.; **Jim Lind**, tight ends; **Jim Zorn**, quarterbacks; **Keith Gilbertson**, asst. off. line; **Nolan Cromwell**, wide receivers; **Stump Mitchell**, running backs; **Dwaine Board**, def. line; **Jim Mora**, secondary; **John Marshall**, def. coord.; **Larry Marmie**, def. asst./secondary; **Zerick Rollins**, linebackers; **Bruce DeHaven**, special teams; **John Jamison**, special teams asst.

# ST. LOUIS

# 2

**NFC WEST**

2006 Record: 8-8
www.stlouisrams.com
EDWARD JONES DOME
Capacity: 66,000 Turf: Artificial
Tickets: 800-246-7267




## Looking for a few good stops

With the Rams' plethora of offensive weapons, it's not going to take much improvement from a previously pathetic defense to make them legit contenders again.

After finishing 8-8 last season, St. Louis was disappointed in its defense, which couldn't stop the run. The Rams hope top draft choice Adam Carriker can help correct that flaw. Luckily, they play in the NFC West, where defense doesn't look like the No. 1 priority.

No other division in the league gave up more points. The Rams finished 28th in points allowed (23.8 per game), but the Cardinals were 29th and the 49ers 32nd. The Seahawks weren't much better at 19th and they won the division by only one game.

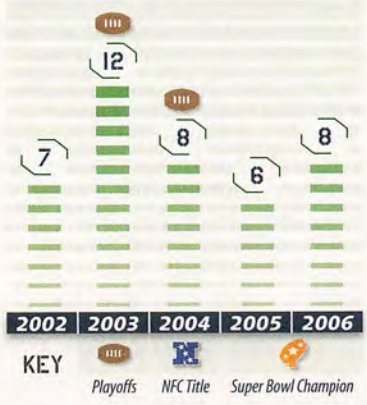
### RAMS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

1. **Isaac Bruce** (1994-present)
*The consistent producer is seventh all-time and second among active players with 887 receptions and 13,376 yards, and he's still putting up 1,000-yard seasons.*

2. **Elroy Hirsch** (1949-57)
*The NFL's first flanker, "Crazy Legs" set the standard for Rams deep threats with a career average of 18.4 yards per catch.*

3. **Torry Holt** (1999-present)
*Holt has gained 1,000 yards receiving in all but his rookie season, and he and Bruce are the second teammates in history to each surpass 1,400 yards in the same year (2000).*

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND




### PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| QB | Marc Bulger |
| FB | Madison Hedgecock |
| RB | Steven Jackson |
| LT | Orlando Pace |
| LG | Mark Setterstrom |
| C | Brett Romberg |
| RG | Richie Incognito |
| RT | Alex Barron |
| TE | Randy McMichael |
| WR | Isaac Bruce |
| WR | Torry Holt |

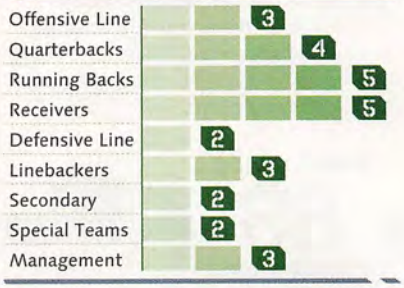
**DEFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| LE | Leonard Little |
| LT | La'Roi Glover |
| RT | Adam Carriker |
| RE | James Hall |
| LLB | Chris Draft |
| MLB | Will Witherspoon |
| RLB | Pisa Tinoisamoa |
| LCB | Tye Hill |
| RCB | Fakhir Brown |
| SS | Corey Chavous |
| FS | Oshiomogho Atogwe |

**SPECIAL TEAMS**

| | |
|---|---|
| P | Donnie Jones |
| K | Jeff Wilkins |
| PR | Dante Hall |
| KR | Dante Hall |

### POWER RATINGS




MICHAEL PIMENTEL

So Coach Scott Linehan enters his second year with justifiable optimism, mainly because the Rams' offense was the best in the division in several categories, including total yards and points scored.

Linehan turned over the play-calling to Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson late in the season and the result was a 4-2 finish, including three December wins in a row that generated momentum for the offseason.

In quarterback Marc Bulger, St. Louis has one of the best in the NFC and a player entering his prime at age 30. On the field, he is tough and accurate, and in the locker room he demonstrated both attributes when he called out teammates last year for what he believed was a lack of dedication. Bulger didn't name anyone publicly and didn't have to. Everybody listened.

In an NFC with more emerging talent than established quarterbacks, Bulger has a chance to show he can take a team to the next level. Although he was sacked a career-high 49 times, partly because of offensive line injuries, Bulger took nearly every snap. Gus Frerotte is one of the league's best backups. With a second year in Linehan's system, this team should see improvement and it has the weapons to do so.

Torry Holt and Isaac Bruce remain the most durable and accomplished wide receiving tandem in the NFC. They have both gone over the 1,000-yard mark in five of the last seven years together. Although Holt is 31 and Bruce is 34, age hasn't seemed to diminish their skills.

The Rams lost valuable third receiver Kevin Curtis and promising Shaun McDonald in the offseason, but made Drew Bennett their top free-agent priority. As the leading receiver for the Tennessee Titans last year, Bennett's size (6-5) provides a different dimension than the speedy and small Curtis and McDonald, and gives Bulger a nice red-zone target. Willie Ponder and Dane Looker are backups who help on special teams.

Linehan also added tight end Randy McMichael from Miami, where the two were together two years ago. McMichael, who caught 62 passes last year, is one of the most productive tight ends in the league and can help the development of second-year prospect Joe Klopfenstein.

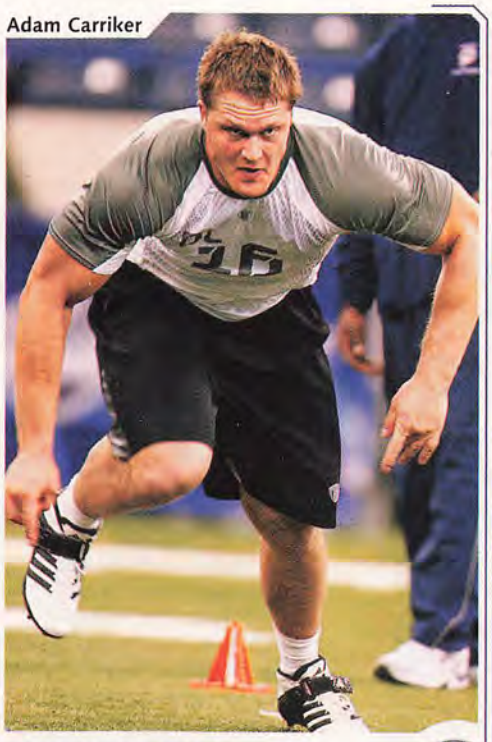
## THE BOOK ON ...

**Steven Jackson** *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"After last season, he doesn't have a whole lot of room to get better. He used to dance a little too much or try to bounce outside with his speed, looking to break everything. But he's learned there are other big, fast players on defense. I give him credit because not everybody learns how to take what's there, especially if you're as big and fast as he is. I think he led the league in short-yardage conversions, which shows he's running tougher inside. Coming out three years ago, he wasn't supposed to be such a good receiver, but in St. Louis he ends up with 90 catches. The only caution is he runs a little high and invites contact, so you wonder how long he'll last. But he's a load."

KEVIN TERRELL / WIRE IMAGE.COM

Adam Carriker



## DRAFT REPORT

The Rams entered the draft wanting to upgrade the defensive line and did just that with the selections of former Nebraska DE **Adam Carriker** and defensive tackles **Clifton Ryan** of Michigan State and **Keith Jackson** of Arkansas. Carriker should start immediately opposite Leonard Little and will upgrade the team's run defense. Ryan has been one of the sleepers of the draft for months and could push for a starting job. Jackson lacks height, but made many plays for the Razorbacks last season due to non-stop effort and hustle. The versatile **Brian Leonard** can play fullback and still has enough speed and quickness to give Steven Jackson some rest at running back. **Jonathan Wade** is a fast cornerback and could eventually start opposite last year's first-round pick, Tye Hill. **Dustin Fry** will provide depth inside at center, while Georgia OT **Ken Shackleford** may need a year on the practice squad. **Derek Stanley** did it all at Division III Wisconsin-Whitewater, but lacks size and faces the big step up in level of competition.

GRADE **C+**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 13 | Carriker, Adam | DE | 6-6 | 292 | Nebraska |
| 2 | 20 | Leonard, Brian | FB | 6-2 | 235 | Rutgers |
| 3 | 21 | Wade, Jonathan | CB | 6-0 | 195 | Tennessee |
| 5 | 2 | Fry, Dustin | C | 6-3 | 315 | Clemson |
| 5 | 17 | Ryan, Clifton | DT | 6-2 | 302 | Michigan State |
| 6 | 16 | Shackleford, Ken | T | 6-5 | 325 | Georgia |
| 7 | 38 | Jackson, Keith | DT | 6-0 | 296 | Arkansas |
| 7 | 39 | Stanley, Derek | WR | 5-11 | 175 | Wisconsin-Whitewater |

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. *Carolina*
SEPT. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 2** vs. *San Francisco*
SEPT. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 3** @ *Tampa Bay*
SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 4** @ *Dallas*
SEPT. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 5** vs. *Arizona*
OCT. 7 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 6** @ *Baltimore*
OCT. 14 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 7** @ *Seattle*
OCT. 21 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 8** vs. *Cleveland*
OCT. 28 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 9** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 10** @ *New Orleans*
NOV. 11 | 1:00

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*Rams Defensive Coordinator Jim Haslett takes his first trip back to New Orleans to see if his defense can stop the NFL's top-ranked offense in 2006. The Saints weren't that potent when he was their head coach.*

W SCORE
L

**WEEK 11** @ *San Francisco*
NOV. 18 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 12** vs. *Seattle*
NOV. 25 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 13** vs. *Atlanta*
DEC. 2 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 14** @ *Cincinnati*
DEC. 9 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 15** vs. *Green Bay*
DEC. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 16** vs. *Pittsburgh*
DEC. 20 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 17** @ *Arizona*
DEC. 30 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 18-10 | Denver |
| 09/17 | L | 13-20 | at San Francisco |
| 09/24 | W | 16-14 | at Arizona |
| 10/01 | W | 41-34 | Detroit |
| 10/08 | W | 23-20 | at Green Bay |
| 10/15 | L | 28-30 | Seattle |
| 10/29 | L | 24-38 | at San Diego |
| 11/05 | L | 17-31 | Kansas City |
| 11/12 | L | 22-24 | at Seattle |
| 11/19 | L | 0-15 | at Carolina |
| 11/26 | W | 20-17 | San Francisco |
| 12/03 | L | 20-34 | Arizona |
| 12/11 | L | 27-42 | Chicago |
| 12/17 | W | 20-0 | at Oakland |
| 12/24 | W | 37-31 | Washington |
| 12/31 | W | 41-21 | at Minnesota |

**WON 8, LOST 8**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson | 346 | 1528 | 4.4 | 59t | 13 |
| Davis | 40 | 177 | 4.4 | 16 | 0 |
| Bulger | 18 | 44 | 2.4 | 29 | 0 |
| Turk | 2 | 19 | 9.5 | 16 | 0 |
| Looker | 1 | 13 | 13.0 | 13 | 0 |
| Fisher | 6 | 9 | 1.5 | 4 | 0 |
| Harris | 3 | 9 | 3.0 | 9 | 0 |
| Alexis | 3 | 5 | 1.7 | 3 | 0 |
| Curtis | 4 | 4 | 1.0 | 7 | 0 |
| Hedgecock | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Fitzpatrick | 3 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 0 |
| **Rams** | 424 | 1805 | 4.3 | 59t | 13 |
| **Opponents** | 477 | 2327 | 4.9 | 51 | 21 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Holt | 93 | 1188 | 12.8 | 67t | 10 |
| Jackson | 90 | 806 | 9.0 | 64t | 3 |
| Bruce | 74 | 1098 | 14.8 | 45 | 3 |
| Curtis | 40 | 479 | 12.0 | 42 | 4 |
| Klopfenstein | 20 | 226 | 11.3 | 28 | 1 |
| Fisher | 14 | 159 | 11.4 | 49 | 0 |
| McDonald | 13 | 136 | 10.5 | 28 | 1 |
| Davis | 12 | 90 | 7.5 | 18 | 1 |
| Hedgecock | 7 | 29 | 4.1 | 7 | 0 |
| Walker | 5 | 68 | 13.6 | 26 | 0 |
| Byrd | 2 | 39 | 19.5 | 27t | 1 |
| Harris | 1 | 10 | 10.0 | 10 | 0 |
| **Rams** | 371 | 4328 | 11.7 | 67t | 24 |
| **Opponents** | 266 | 3249 | 12.2 | 72t | 21 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bulger | 588 | 370 | 4301 | 24 | 8 |
| Frerotte | 3 | 1 | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| Bruce | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Rams** | 592 | 371 | 4328 | 24 | 8 |
| **Opponents** | 451 | 266 | 3249 | 21 | 17 |

**SACKS**

Little 13, Glover 5.5, Witherspoon 3, Chillar 2, Tinoisamoa 2, R. Smith 1.5, Adeyanju 1, Atogwe 1, F. Brown 1, Chavous 1, Kennedy 1, Wroten 1, Green 0.5, Hargrove 0.5

**RAMS 34, OPPONENTS 49**

At running back, the Rams have one the league's few workhorse stars in Steven Jackson, whose 346 rushing attempts and 90 receptions for 436 total touches fell only six short of Eric Dickerson's franchise record set in 1983. Jackson's 90 catches were two more than New Orleans' Reggie Bush and established Jackson as a worthy successor to the retired Marshall Faulk. The previous year, Jackson had only 43 receptions in Mike Martz's offense.

Jackson's 2,334 total yards also put him in elite NFL company. Only Faulk (2,429 in 1999), Tiki Barber (2,390, 2005), LaDainian Tomlinson (2,370, 2003) and Barry Sanders (2,358, 1997) ever compiled more in a single season.

To help distribute the load, the Rams drafted versatile Brian Leonard with their second pick and he has been compared to Tampa Bay bruiser Mike Alstott. As a runner, receiver and blocker, Leonard carried the Rutgers offense at times during his career.

Linehan added Travis Minor from Miami to provide a change of pace. Stephen Davis squeezed in only 40 rushes last year while watching Jackson. Tony Fisher is coming off a knee injury that cost him half the season, so he could still figure in the game plan if healthy. Madison Hedgecock is the fullback.

Pro Bowl left tackle Orlando Pace is coming off a triceps injury that cost him the last seven games. His return will relax both Linehan and Bulger. The Rams expect continued improvement from third-year right tackle Alex Barron and have retained veteran Todd Steussie as insurance, along with Adam Goldberg and Jeremy Parquet.

The Rams parted ways with veteran right guard Adam Timmerman and expect versatile third-year man Richie Incognito to take over. Incognito saw action at all three interior positions last season. Brett Romberg was a surprise at center after Incognito, who was filling in for injured Andy McCollum, moved to right guard. Mark Setterstrom played well as a rookie at left guard. Claude Terrell is coming off injured reserve after missing the 2006 season.

Second-day draft picks Dustin Fry and Ken Shackleford lend depth to the offensive line.

Defensive Coordinator Jim Haslett had offseason needs addressed on every level, starting with the trade acquisition of end James Hall from Detroit. By adding Carriker, the Rams proved they're getting serious. He was the best run-stuffer in the draft and will move to tackle. An end in college, Carriker could fill in there, too, but he's not the prototypical edge rusher.

Hall had five sacks for the Lions last season while starting only seven games before going on injured reserve. At 280 pounds, Hall is bigger than three of the

### DID YOU KNOW

Since relocating to St. Louis in 1995, the Rams are 43-1 when they've had a 100-yard rusher. The lone loss was Sept. 17, 2006, when Steven Jackson reached the century mark against San Francisco.

Steven Jackson led all NFC running backs in yards up the middle with 657 on 119 attempts for a 5.5-yard average. That total is the most for a Rams running back since the franchise moved to St. Louis in 1995.

Quarterback Marc Bulger threw just eight interceptions last year, the fewest of any Rams quarterback who has started 16 games in a season. Roman Gabriel threw seven interceptions in 1969, but during a 14-game season.

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**MARC BULGER**
quarterback

During the second year in Coach Scott Linehan's system, Bulger is ready to take a run at being the top passer in the NFC. He has a better balance of receivers and runners around him than anybody else in the league, so this is his time.

### NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 360.4 | 6 | Total Defense | 335.1 | 23 |
| Rushing | 112.8 | 17 | Against Rush | 145.4 | 31 |
| Passing | 247.6 | 4 | Against Pass | 189.7 | 8 |
| Scoring | 367 | 10 | Points Allowed | 381 | 28 |
| Punt Returns | 7.8 | 25t | Interceptions | 17 | 13t |
| Kick Returns | 21.3 | 26 | Sacks | 34 | 19t |
| Red Zone TD % | 57.4 | 8 | Turnover Diff. | +14 | 2 |

**FIRST DOWNS**

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 332 | 94 | 212 | 26 |

**RED ZONE OFFENSE**

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 54 | 273 | 31 | 19 |

**TOUCHDOWNS**

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 24 | 0 | 2 |

HEADSHOT COURTESY NFL

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the Rams)*

"If their defense holds up, I think they have a good shot at catching the Seahawks, but that's a pretty big 'if.' Their defensive line was terrible [last season], so [first-round draft choice Adam] Carriker has to play well right away. So does James Hall, a nice pickup from Detroit. The linebackers are fast but undersized. [Oshiomogho] Atogwe got better at safety, but the secondary isn't very good overall. It would get better with a better line in front of it. Special teams were bad and I don't think Dante Hall has much left. Their offense is Super Bowl-ready and [Coach Scott] Linehan made it better with Drew Bennett and Randy McMichael, but the offense can't win more than eight games without help."

Rams' defensive ends who started last year—Leonard Little, Victor Adeyanju and Brandon Green.

Little became a double-digit sacker again last year and was one of the Rams' main targets to re-sign before he entered the free-agent market. Little will profit by more help from Hall, as well as Carriker's inside presence.

Where St. Louis needs the most help is at tackle, where La'Roi Glover will be 33 before the start of the season and former first-round pick Jimmy Kennedy has yet to reach his potential. The Rams have hopes for Claude Wroten, but won't hesitate to switch Carriker in place of Wroten. The situation inside is in such dire need that St. Louis added two more prospects on the second day of the draft in Clifton Ryan and Keith Jackson Jr., son of the former Pro Bowl tight end Keith Jackson.

Will Witherspoon led the Rams in tackles after coming from Carolina and moving to middle linebacker, where his speed enables him to cover the entire field. With Pisa Tinoisamoa returning from a hand injury to the weakside spot and newcomer Chris Draft from the Panthers challenging Brandon Chillar on the strongside, the Rams have a very fast unit. Jon Alston and pass rusher Raonall Smith are in reserve. Like Witherspoon the year before, Draft led Carolina in tackles last season.

Tye Hill and Fakhir Brown are the starting corners, unless third-round speedster Jonathan Wade proves he's capable of handling more than nickel duties. Free-agent newcomers Mike Rumph from Washington and Lenny Walls from Kansas City join Ron Bartell and Jerametrius Butler as backups. Todd Johnson (Chicago) also signed to provide depth with Jerome Carter behind starting safeties Oshiomogho Atogwe and Corey Chavous. Bartell could also factor in at free safety.

**FINAL GRADE** 77

STOCK REPORT: UP

## THE COUNT

**29**

St. Louis drives that lasted five minutes or more last season, which led the NFL.

**21**

Touchdowns thrown by Marc Bulger in the red zone in 2006, best in the NFC.

**64**

The number of receptions Steven Jackson had at home last year, while catching only 26 on the road.

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Drew Bennett**, WR (TEN)

*Coach Scott Linehan went with size to complement Torry Holt and Isaac Bruce instead of speedy little Kevin Curtis and Shaun McDonald.*

- Randy McMichael, TE (MIA)
- Travis Minor, RB (MIA)
- Todd Johnson, S (CHI)
- James Hall, DE (trade, DET)
- Donnie Jones, P (MIA)
- Dante Hall, WR (trade, KC)
- Chris Draft, LB (CAR)
- Mike Rumph, DB (WAS)
- Lenny Walls, DB (KC)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Paul Smith, FB (DEN)
- Shaun McDonald, WR (DET)
- Travis Fisher, CB (DET)
- Marshall Faulk, RB (retired)
- Kevin Curtis, WR (PHI)

## RAMS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Bulger, Marc | QB | 6-3 | 212 | 04/05/1977 | 5 | West Virginia |
| 11 | Fitzpatrick, Ryan | QB | 6-2 | 221 | 11/24/1982 | 2 | Harvard |
| 12 | Frerotte, Gus | QB | 6-3 | 233 | 07/31/1971 | 13 | Tulsa |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 70 | Barron, Alex | T | 6-7 | 315 | 09/28/1982 | 2 | Florida State |
| 72 | Goldberg, Adam | T | 6-7 | 330 | 08/12/1980 | 3 | Wyoming |
| 68 | Incognito, Richie | G | 6-3 | 305 | 07/05/1983 | 1 | Nebraska |
| 67 | McCollum, Andy | C | 6-4 | 300 | 06/02/1970 | 12 | Toledo |
| 76 | Pace, Orlando | T | 6-7 | 325 | 11/04/1975 | 10 | Ohio State |
| 64 | Parquet, Jeremy | T | 6-6 | 321 | 04/11/1982 | 0 | Southern Miss |
| 65 | Romberg, Brett | C | 6-2 | 298 | 10/10/1979 | 1 | Miami (FL) |
| 66 | Setterstrom, Mark | G | 6-4 | 314 | 03/03/1984 | 1 | Minnesota |
| 79 | Steussie, Todd | T | 6-6 | 310 | 12/01/1970 | 13 | California |
| 77 | Strojny, Drew | T | 6-7 | 305 | 06/30/1981 | 0 | Duke |
| 75 | Terrell, Claude | G | 6-2 | 330 | 04/20/1982 | 1 | New Mexico |
| 63 | Turner, Larry | C | 6-2 | 295 | 03/08/1982 | 3 | Eastern Kentucky |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 32 | Alexis, Rich | RB | 6-0 | 213 | 03/06/1981 | 2 | Washington |
| 33 | Harris, Kay-Jay | RB | 6-0 | 229 | 03/27/1979 | 1 | West Virginia |
| 44 | Hedgecock, Madison | RB | 6-3 | 266 | 08/27/1981 | 2 | North Carolina |
| 39 | Jackson, Steven | RB | 6-2 | 231 | 07/22/1983 | 3 | Oregon State |
| 45 | Massey, Chris | RB | 6-0 | 245 | 08/21/1979 | 5 | Marshall |
| 28 | Minor, Travis | RB | 5-10 | 203 | 06/30/1979 | 6 | Florida State |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 83 | Bennett, Drew | WR | 6-5 | 206 | 08/26/1978 | 6 | UCLA |
| 80 | Bruce, Isaac | WR | 6-0 | 188 | 11/10/1972 | 13 | Memphis |
| 86 | Byrd, Dominique | TE | 6-2 | 254 | 02/07/1984 | 1 | USC |
| 15 | Hagans, Marques | WR | 5-10 | 205 | 12/29/1982 | 0 | Virginia |
| 82 | Hall, Dante | WR | 5-8 | 187 | 09/20/1978 | 7 | Texas A&M |
| 81 | Holt, Torry | WR | 6-0 | 190 | 06/05/1976 | 8 | N.C. State |
| 82 | Klopfenstein, Joe | TE | 6-5 | 256 | 11/09/1983 | 1 | Colorado |
| 89 | Looker, Dane | WR | 6-0 | 194 | 05/05/1976 | 5 | Washington |
| 84 | McMichael, Randy | TE | 6-3 | 255 | 06/28/1979 | 5 | Georgia |
| 87 | Walker, Aaron | TE | 6-6 | 270 | 03/14/1980 | 3 | Florida |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 94 | Adeyanju, Victor | DE | 6-4 | 270 | 02/11/1983 | 1 | Indiana |
| 98 | Brown, Michael | DE | 6-4 | 250 | 09/21/1984 | 0 | Howard |
| 97 | Glover, La'Roi | DT | 6-2 | 290 | 07/04/1974 | 11 | San Diego State |
| 96 | Hall, James | DE | 6-2 | 280 | 02/04/1977 | 7 | Michigan |
| 95 | Johnson, Trevor | DE | 6-4 | 260 | 02/26/1981 | 3 | Nebraska |
| 73 | Kennedy, Jimmy | DT | 6-4 | 325 | 11/15/1979 | 4 | Penn State |
| 91 | Little, Leonard | DE | 6-3 | 263 | 10/19/1974 | 9 | Tennessee |
| 92 | Moore, Eric | DE | 6-4 | 262 | 02/28/1981 | 2 | Florida State |
| 73 | Sandidge, Tim | DT | 6-1 | 300 | 06/12/1983 | 0 | Virginia Tech |
| 99 | Wroten, Claude | DT | 6-2 | 295 | 09/16/1983 | 1 | LSU |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | Atogwe, Oshiomogho | S | 5-11 | 210 | 06/23/1981 | 2 | Stanford |
| 24 | Bartell, Ron | S | 6-1 | 200 | 02/22/1982 | 2 | Howard |
| 34 | Brown, Fakhir | CB | 5-11 | 192 | 09/21/1977 | 7 | Grambling State |
| 23 | Butler, Jerametrius | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 11/28/1978 | 5 | Kansas State |
| 42 | Carter, Jerome | S | 5-11 | 219 | 10/25/1982 | 2 | Florida State |
| 25 | Chavous, Corey | S | 6-1 | 208 | 01/15/1976 | 9 | Vanderbilt |
| 26 | Hill, Tye | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 06/03/1982 | 1 | Clemson |
| 35 | Johnson, Todd | S | 6-1 | 200 | 12/18/1978 | 3 | Florida |
| 27 | Walls, Lenny | CB | 6-4 | 192 | 09/26/1979 | 5 | Boston College |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 57 | Alston, Jon | LB | 6-0 | 221 | 06/04/1983 | 1 | Stanford |
| 54 | Chillar, Brandon | LB | 6-3 | 242 | 10/21/1982 | 3 | UCLA |
| 52 | Draft, Chris | LB | 5-11 | 232 | 02/26/1976 | 9 | Stanford |
| 56 | Smith, Raonall | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 10/22/1978 | 4 | Washington State |
| 50 | Tinoisamoa, Pisa | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 07/15/1981 | 4 | Hawaii |
| 51 | Witherspoon, Will | LB | 6-1 | 234 | 08/19/1980 | 5 | Georgia |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Jones, Donnie | P | 6-2 | 222 | 07/05/1980 | 3 | LSU |
| 11 | Sander, B.J. | P | 6-4 | 218 | 07/29/1980 | 1 | Ohio State |
| 14 | Wilkins, Jeff | K | 6-2 | 205 | 04/19/1972 | 13 | Youngstown State |

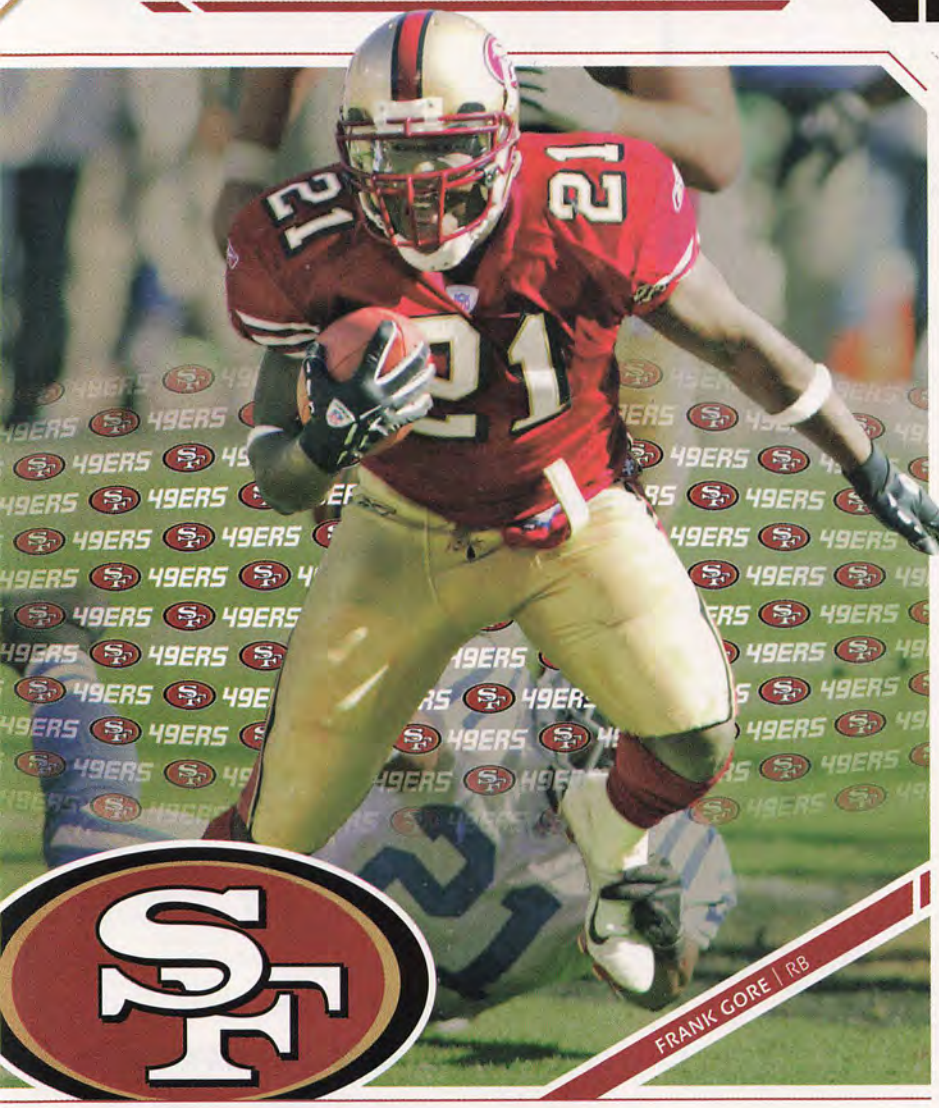
**SCOTT LINEHAN**, HEAD COACH

**Rick Venturi**, asst. head coach/linebackers; **Jim Haslett**, def. coord.; **Greg Olson**, off. coord.; **Brian Baker**, def. line; **Paul Boudreau**, off. line; **Jim Chaney**, asst. off. line; **Mike Cox**, asst. def. line; **Todd Downing**, asst. special teams; **Henry Ellard**, wide receivers; **Judd Garrett**, tight ends; **Ron Milus**, asst. secondary; **Wayne Moses**, running backs; **Doug Nussmeier**, quarterbacks; **Al Roberts**, special teams; **Willy Robinson**, secondary

# SAN FRANCISCO 3

**NFC WEST**

2006 Record: 7-9
www.49ers.com
MONSTER PARK
Capacity: 69,732 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 415-656-4900




## Money to burn

With more room under the cap to spend than any team, the 49ers improved their defense and, with it, their fortunes considerably.

Not that anybody was feeling sorry for the once-mighty 49ers, but they are no longer in salary-cap jail. No other team had more money to throw at free agency, so after years of trying to make ends meet, San Francisco is once again able to concentrate on just making ends famous.

In the NFC West last year, the 7-9 49ers were only two games out of first place and, since they beat the champion Seahawks twice, Coach Mike Nolan's team has every reason to enter the 2007 schedule with more than youthful hope. With three of their first four games against division foes, including two at home, they should get a good early look at whether the chances are realistic.

Nolan's defense gave up more points than any team in the league. Four lopsided losses to playoff teams—the Chiefs by 41 points, the Bears by 31, the Chargers by 29, and the Saints by 24—reminded the 49ers they still have plenty of work to do. But the two wins against Seattle and a season-ending overtime victory at Denver that knocked the Broncos out of the playoffs have created momentum.

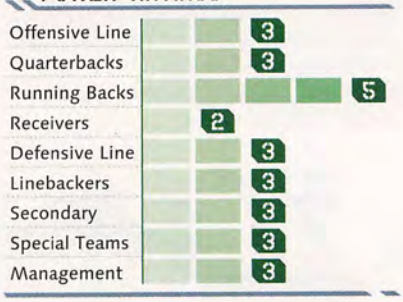
Nolan switched from Billy Davis to Greg Manusky as defensive coordinator. Manusky arrives from San Diego, where he was linebackers coach for

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

### PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Alex Smith |
| FB | Moran Norris |
| RB | Frank Gore |
| LT | Jonas Jennings |
| LG | Larry Allen |
| C | Eric Heitmann |
| RG | Justin Smiley |
| RT | Kwame Harris |
| TE | Vernon Davis |
| WR | Darrell Jackson |
| WR | Arnaz Battle |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Bryant Young |
| NT | Aubrayo Franklin |
| RE | Melvin Oliver |
| LLB | Manny Lawson |
| ILB | Derek Smith |
| ILB | Patrick Willis |
| RLB | Brandon Moore |
| LCB | Nate Clements |
| RCB | Walt Harris |
| SS | Michael Lewis |
| FS | Mark Roman |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Andy Lee |
| K | Joe Nedney |
| PR | Brandon Williams |
| KR | Maurice Hicks |

### POWER RATINGS



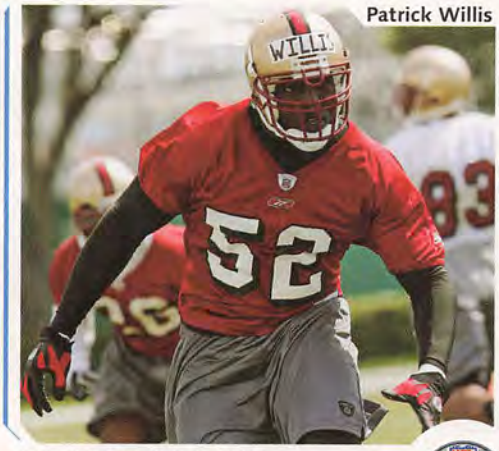

LEN LAMÉ

## THE BOOK ON ... *Frank Gore* *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Everybody knew he had talent, but the way he ran last season made the 49ers look like geniuses for getting him in the third round with those knees. He looks like he was born to run—thick and powerful and good body-lean. You wouldn't know he's had two knee surgeries. He even led the 49ers in receiving with 61 catches and that wasn't a strong suit.

"I hear he's not as fast as he used to be, but he looks as fast as he needs to be. He's a lot stronger than he looks and is hard to tackle, tough inside and fast outside.

"Now, everybody understands why he beat out Willis McGahee at the University of Miami before he got hurt."



Patrick Willis

## DRAFT REPORT

Despite DE Adam Carriker being available, the 49ers passed up on him, making Mississippi ILB **Patrick Willis** their first choice in the draft. San Francisco then sent its 2008 first-round pick to New England to get back into the first round, where the team chose **Joe Staley**. The athletic left tackle out of Central Michigan will eventually replace Jonas Jennings, who has a history of injuries. **Jason Hill** was a highly productive receiver in the Pac-10 the last three seasons and impressed scouts with a sub-4.4 40 at the NFL Combine. **Ray McDonald** struggled with injuries in college, but fits well at defensive end in the 3-4 alignment. **Jay Moore** is a high-effort player who will play defensive end or outside linebacker in San Francisco. **Dashon Goldson** is another versatile prospect with the ability to play safety or cornerback. **Tarell Brown** is an underrated cornerback who slipped some as a senior due to injuries and off-the-field troubles. Defensive tackle **Joe Cohen** and RB **Thomas Clayton** will have a hard time making the roster. The acquisition of WR **Darrell Jackson** from Seattle also figures into the final grade.

**GRADE B**

coordinator Wade Phillips and is well-versed in the 3-4 fronts that Nolan has tried to assimilate. Defense is where the 49ers spent most of their $40 million available to lure free-agent talent.

On offense, the 49ers already boast the top rusher in the NFC in Frank Gore, whose 1,695 yards and whopping 5.4-yard average are good news for any offense and an excellent way to enhance the kind of run-oriented, defensive-minded team Nolan is trying to assemble.

Gore is the best friend for Alex Smith because he takes so much pressure off the young quarterback. The 5.4 average was the best in the league, but he also caught 61 passes to lead the team in receptions. Gore is a workhorse that Nolan would like to spell occasionally with Maurice Hicks and Michael Robinson, but he never likes to sit plays out. Gore says he plans to lose five pounds and play at 205 in order to stay fresher and faster. He says he got the idea from LaDainian Tomlinson.

"You don't want to beat up your best guy; you want to take a little bit of wear off him," Nolan says. "Our guy likes to play, though. Some guys like to come out so that when they go back in it's a fresh carry. Frank is not that way. Frank wants to stay in there all the time, even when he's a little gassed."

Moran Norris will be the blocking back when the 49ers don't go with three receivers and let Gore work against a spread defense.

That's one reason the trade acquisition of Seattle receiver Darrell Jackson was important. Finding three good wideouts has been a problem for the 49ers, who have given up on Brandon Lloyd and Antonio Bryant the last two years and

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 11 | Willis, Patrick | LB | 6-1 | 240 | Mississippi |
| 1 | 28 | Staley, Joe | T | 6-5 | 302 | Central Michigan |
| 3 | 12 | Hill, Jason | WR | 6-0 | 210 | Washington State |
| 3 | 34 | McDonald, Ray | DE | 6-3 | 280 | Florida |
| 4 | 5 | Moore, Jay | DE | 6-4 | 280 | Nebraska |
| 4 | 27 | Goldson, Dashon | S | 6-2 | 195 | Washington |
| 4 | 36 | Cohen, Joe | DT | 6-2 | 296 | Florida |
| 5 | 10 | Brown, Tarell | CB | 6-0 | 200 | Texas |
| 6 | 12 | Clayton, Thomas | RB | 5-10 | 220 | Kansas State |

## THE COUNT

| 18.44 | 79.6 | 2,890 |
|---|---|---|
| Average margin of defeat by the 49ers, the largest per game average in the NFL. | Increase in yards per game by the 49ers' offense from 2005 to 2006. San Francisco had the NFL's seventh-worst offense, averaging 316.4 yards per game, but showed huge improvement from 2005 (league-worst 242.4). | Passing yards by Alex Smith, the most by a 49ers quarterback since 2002. However, San Francisco still had the fourth-fewest net passing yards in the league. |

TERRELL LLOYD

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** vs. *Arizona*
SEPT. 10 | 10:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 2** @ *St. Louis*
SEPT. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 3** @ *Pittsburgh*
SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 4** vs. *Seattle*
SEPT. 30 | 4:05

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*The 49ers beat the Seahawks twice last year. Was it a fluke? This game will provide an early look at whether anything has changed in the NFC West. It will be the 49ers' third division game in the first four weeks of the season.*

W SCORE
L

**WEEK 5** vs. *Baltimore*
OCT. 7 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 6** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 7** @ *New York Giants*
OCT. 21 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 8** vs. *New Orleans*
OCT. 28 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 9** @ *Atlanta*
NOV. 4 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 10** @ *Seattle*
NOV. 12 | 8:30
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 11** vs. *St. Louis*
NOV. 18 | 4:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 12** @ *Arizona*
NOV. 25 | 4:05
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 13** @ *Carolina*
DEC. 2 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 14** vs. *Minnesota*
DEC. 9 | 4:05
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 15** vs. *Cincinnati*
DEC. 15 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 16** vs. *Tampa Bay*
DEC. 23 | 8:15
W SCORE
L

**WEEK 17** @ *Cleveland*
DEC. 30 | 1:00
W SCORE
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | L | 27-34 | at Arizona |
| 09/17 | W | 20-13 | St. Louis |
| 09/24 | L | 24-38 | Philadelphia |
| 10/01 | L | 0-41 | at Kansas City |
| 10/08 | W | 34-20 | Oakland |
| 10/15 | L | 19-48 | San Diego |
| 10/29 | L | 10-41 | at Chicago |
| 11/05 | W | 9-3 W | Minnesota |
| 11/12 | W | 19-13 | at Detroit |
| 11/19 | W | 20-14 | Seattle |
| 11/26 | L | 17-20 | at St. Louis |
| 12/03 | L | 10-34 | at New Orleans |
| 12/10 | L | 19-30 | Green Bay |
| 12/14 | W | 24-14 | at Seattle |
| 12/24 | L | 20-26 | Arizona |
| 12/31 | W | 26-23 | at Denver |

**WON 7, LOST 9**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gore | 312 | 1695 | 5.4 | 72 | 8 |
| A. Smith | 44 | 147 | 3.3 | 22 | 2 |
| Robinson | 38 | 116 | 3.1 | 33 | 2 |
| Gilmore | 7 | 94 | 13.4 | 22 | 0 |
| Hicks | 29 | 82 | 2.8 | 9 | 0 |
| Battle | 5 | 25 | 5.0 | 18 | 0 |
| Norris | 2 | 8 | 4.0 | 4 | 0 |
| V. Davis | 2 | 5 | 2.5 | 9 | 0 |
| **49ers** | 439 | 2172 | 4.9 | 72 | 12 |
| **Opponents** | 473 | 1936 | 4.1 | 71t | 18 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gore | 61 | 485 | 8.0 | 39 | 1 |
| Battle | 59 | 686 | 11.6 | 56 | 3 |
| Bryant | 40 | 733 | 18.3 | 72t | 3 |
| Johnson | 34 | 292 | 8.6 | 26 | 2 |
| V. Davis | 20 | 265 | 13.3 | 52t | 3 |
| Hicks | 13 | 137 | 10.5 | 33t | 1 |
| Robinson | 9 | 47 | 5.2 | 12 | 0 |
| Gilmore | 8 | 150 | 18.8 | 75 | 1 |
| Norris | 5 | 36 | 7.2 | 32t | 2 |
| Jacobs | 4 | 29 | 7.3 | 10 | 0 |
| Walker | 2 | 30 | 15.0 | 29 | 0 |
| Hetherington | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| **49ers** | 257 | 2890 | 11.2 | 75 | 16 |
| **Opponents** | 331 | 3817 | 11.5 | 74 | 25 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Smith | 442 | 257 | 2890 | 16 | 16 |
| Battle | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Robinson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **49ers** | 444 | 257 | 2890 | 16 | 16 |
| **Opponents** | 518 | 331 | 3817 | 25 | 14 |

**SACKS**

Moore 6.5, Young 5.5, Green 4.5, Douglas 3, Lawson 2.5, C. Williams 2.5, A. Adams 2, Spencer 2, Sopoaga 1.5, W. Harris 1, Lewis 1, Oliver 1, Roman 1

**49ERS 34, OPPONENTS 35**

## VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

*(an opponent breaks down the 49ers)*

"They look like they're getting it going. They shouldn't be a playoff team yet, but in that division, who knows? The defense didn't know what it was doing while [Coach Mike] Nolan was trying to switch to the 3-4, but now their new coordinator, Greg Manusky, should be able to give them better direction. ...

"They overpaid for [Nate] Clements, who's good but not $80 million good. Darrell Jackson is a nice pickup because they had really nothing at receiver except the big tight end [Vernon Davis]. [Frank] Gore is great, but you've got to wonder if his knees will hold up. The defensive line is still a work-in-progress and needs more bodies to be effective."

will try to make Ashley Lelie their latest reclamation project.

Arnaz Battle has turned into a credible receiver, but Smith needs Jackson to come off a knee injury and post the kind of numbers he had as Seattle's No. 1 target. The 49ers made Washington State's speedy Jason Hill a third-round pick. They would also like to see Lelie blossom along with Bryan Gilmore, Taylor Jacobs and Brandon Williams. The big and speedy Lelie didn't live up to his potential in Denver or Atlanta.

Tight end Vernon Davis, last year's top draft choice, was limited by injury to only eight starts, but he expects to break out in his sophomore season to show the league that all the fuss over his size and speed was legitimate. He caught only 20 passes as a rookie, but veteran Eric Johnson, who caught 34, is now with New Orleans. Davis, who proved he can block, is now on center stage, with Billy Bajema and Delanie Walker in the wings.

Last year's addition of guard Larry Allen helped the offensive line develop as planned. Although Allen is now 35 and missed five games to injury last season, he is expected to again be the cornerstone blocker. Tackles Jonas Jennings and Kwame Harris are joined by first-round pick Joe Staley and backed by Adam Snyder, Patrick Estes and Harvey Dahl. Staley played left tackle in college, but is athletic enough to play either side and good enough to start right away.

Justin Smiley started every game at right guard and if center Eric Heitmann recovers from a broken leg, his presence will lend considerable depth in the middle, where Tony Wragge and David Baas also have experience at both center and guard.

## DID YOU KNOW

Frank Gore ended the 2006 season with 1,695 rushing yards, a franchise record and the third-highest total in the NFL last year. The 49ers also averaged 135.8 rushing yards a game, which was sixth best in the league. However, they recorded only 97 first downs, ranking 20th.

San Francisco committed 32 turnovers last season, which opponents converted into a league-leading 126 points. Of the points allowed by the 49ers, 30.6 percent were the result of a turnover.

After finishing 2006 with a 7-9 record, the 49ers have had four consecutive losing seasons, tying the franchise's longest stretch set from 1977-1980.

## BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**VERNON DAVIS**
tight end

Injuries limited Davis to eight starts and only 20 catches after being one of the most heralded rookie tight ends ever. Expect more, especially now that talented Eric Johnson is gone. Davis has already shown his blocking ability.

Nolan added six defensive players in the draft, including top pick Patrick Willis of Mississippi, the Butkus Award linebacker.

Nolan also added relatively unknown free agent Aubrayo Franklin from

## 49ERS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Jerry Rice** (1985-2000)
*The best receiver in history owns the record books at his position: catches (1,549), yards (22,895), scores (197), consecutive games with a reception (274) and touchdowns (13).*

**2 Terrell Owens** (1996-2003)
*Owens was productive before his ugly exit from the 49ers, leading the league in touchdown receptions twice and catching a record 20 passes against the Bears in 2000.*

**3 Billy Wilson** (1951-60)
*Wilson made the Pro Bowl six times and caught 407 balls for 5,902 yards and 49 scores.*

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

Baltimore's deep defensive line to be his anchor at nose tackle. Among Isaac Sopoaga, Marques Douglas, Ronald Fields and departed Anthony Adams, the 49ers couldn't find the kind of nose tackle essential to the 3-4 last season, so they are counting on Franklin.

Ex-tackle Bryant Young has made the switch to end and, at age 35, remains one of the league's most unsung players. He started all 16 games last year and had 5.5 sacks while working opposite rookie Melvin Oliver. San Francisco added pass rusher Ray McDonald and nose tackle Joe Cohen in the draft.

The 49ers had their sights set on free-agent linebacker Adalius Thomas from Baltimore but settled for Tully Banta-Cain from New England to help juice the pass rush. Brandon Moore led the team with 6.5 sacks after settling in at outside linebacker opposite rookie Manny Lawson. Moore also ended up leading the team in tackles and was a catalyst for the team's 2-1 finish. Draftee Jay Moore was added as another 'tweener suited for the 3-4.

Inside, the 49ers are ready for big changes after making Willis their top pick. He'll join Derek Smith and Jeff Ulbrich. Willis has the credentials to start right away. Colby Bockwoldt from Tennessee was also added for depth.

The 49ers' most expensive free-agent signing was former Buffalo cornerback Nate Clements, who will strengthen a thin area. He will start on the left side and let Walt Harris and Shawntae Spencer compete for the starting job on the right side. Harris is coming off an outstanding year of eight interceptions and five forced fumbles, but at 33 is eight years older than Spencer, who had a decent year himself. Donald Strickland, coming off injured reserve, and B.J. Tucker are reserves.

Adding Michael Lewis from Philadelphia will give the 49ers a veteran presence at strong safety. Mark Roman is expected to move to free safety in place of Keith Lewis, with Mike Adams and Marcus Hudson in reserve competing with rookies Dashon Goldson and Tarell Brown.

The 49ers matched an offer from Pittsburgh to keep punter Andy Lee. Joe Nedney remains the placekicker. Hicks was among the better kickoff-return men in the NFC last year. Brandon Williams will handle the punt returns.

**FINAL GRADE** 75

STOCK REPORT: UP

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

**OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER**

**Nate Clements,** CB (BUF)

*The 49ers made Clements one of the richest defensive players ever with an eight-year, $80 million deal.*

- Aubrayo Franklin, DT (BAL)
- Tully Banta-Cain, LB (NE)
- Ashley Lelie, WR (ATL)
- Michael Lewis, S (PHI)
- Colby Bockwoldt, LB (TEN)
- Darrell Jackson, WR (trade, SEA)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Jeremy Newberry, C (OAK)
- Eric Johnson, TE (NO)
- Derrick Hamilton, WR (ATL)
- Anthony Adams, DT (CHI)
- Deke Cooper, DB (CAR)
- Mike Adams, DB (CLE)

> "You know that makes it that much sweeter that I can go back and face my old team [Seattle Seahawks]. I've been looking forward to becoming a 49er ever since I heard the talk about the trade."

*—offseason acquisition Darrell Jackson on playing against his former team*

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 303.6 | 26 |
| Rushing | 135.8 | 6 |
| Passing | 167.8 | 29 |
| Scoring | 298 | 24 |
| Punt Returns | 8.5 | 18 |
| Kick Returns | 24.1 | 4 |
| Red Zone TD % | 41.7 | 29 |
| Total Defense | 344.2 | 26 |
| Against Rush | 121.0 | 19 |
| Against Pass | 223.2 | 26 |
| Points Allowed | 412 | 32 |
| Interceptions | 14 | 22t |
| Sacks | 34 | 19t |
| Turnover Diff. | -5 | 23t |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 243 | 97 | 132 | 14 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 48 | 200 | 20 | 20 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 16 | 0 | 2 |

## 49ERS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | Dilfer, Trent | QB | 6-4 | 234 | 03/13/1972 | 12 | Fresno State |
| 13 | Hill, Shaun | QB | 6-3 | 226 | 01/09/1980 | 1 | Maryland |
| 11 | Smith, Alex | QB | 6-4 | 210 | 05/07/1984 | 2 | Utah |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 71 | Allen, Larry | G | 6-3 | 325 | 11/27/1971 | 13 | Sonoma State |
| 64 | Baas, David | G | 6-4 | 312 | 09/28/1981 | 2 | Michigan |
| 76 | Dahl, Harvey | T | 6-5 | 305 | 06/24/1981 | 1 | Nevada |
| 78 | Estes, Patrick | T | 6-7 | 283 | 02/04/1983 | 1 | Virginia |
| 77 | Harris, Kwame | T | 6-7 | 306 | 03/15/1982 | 4 | Stanford |
| 66 | Heitmann, Eric | G | 6-3 | 307 | 02/24/1980 | 5 | Stanford |
| 75 | Jennings, Jonas | T | 6-3 | 332 | 11/21/1977 | 6 | Georgia |
| 65 | Smiley, Justin | G | 6-3 | 301 | 11/11/1981 | 3 | Alabama |
| 68 | Snyder, Adam | G | 6-6 | 312 | 01/30/1982 | 2 | Oregon |
| 74 | Steitz, Nick | G | 6-3 | 300 | 08/18/1982 | 0 | Oregon |
| 69 | Wragge, Tony | G | 6-4 | 320 | 08/14/1979 | 2 | New Mexico State |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | Gore, Frank | RB | 5-9 | 215 | 05/14/1983 | 2 | Miami (FL) |
| 43 | Hicks, Maurice | RB | 5-11 | 196 | 07/22/1978 | 3 | N.C. A&T |
| 44 | Norris, Moran | RB | 6-2 | 250 | 06/16/1978 | 6 | Kansas |
| 24 | Robinson, Michael | RB | 6-1 | 218 | 02/06/1983 | 1 | Penn State |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 47 | Bajema, Billy | TE | 6-4 | 255 | 10/31/1982 | 2 | Oklahoma State |
| 86 | Banta, Bradford | TE | 6-6 | 253 | 12/14/1970 | 11 | USC |
| 83 | Battle, Arnaz | WR | 6-1 | 206 | 02/22/1980 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 85 | Davis, Vernon | TE | 6-3 | 253 | 01/31/1984 | 1 | Maryland |
| 84 | Gilmore, Bryan | WR | 6-1 | 193 | 01/21/1978 | 7 | Midwestern State |
| 82 | Jackson, Darrell | WR | 5-11 | 201 | 12/06/1978 | 8 | Florida |
| 88 | Jacobs, Taylor | WR | 6-1 | 202 | 05/30/1981 | 4 | Florida |
| 86 | Jennings, Brian | TE | 6-5 | 233 | 10/14/1976 | 7 | Arizona State |
| 18 | Lelie, Ashley | WR | 6-3 | 200 | 02/16/1980 | 5 | Hawaii |
| 46 | Walker, Delanie | TE | 6-1 | 237 | 08/12/1984 | 1 | UTEP |
| 81 | Williams, Brandon | WR | 5-11 | 175 | 02/24/1984 | 1 | Wisconsin |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 94 | Douglas, Marques | DE | 6-2 | 286 | 03/05/1977 | 7 | Howard |
| 63 | Duckett, Damane | DT | 6-6 | 313 | 01/21/1981 | 3 | East Carolina |
| 93 | Fields, Ronald | DT | 6-2 | 310 | 09/13/1981 | 2 | Mississippi State |
| 92 | Franklin, Aubrayo | DT | 6-1 | 320 | 08/27/1980 | 4 | Tennessee |
| 96 | Oliver, Melvin | DE | 6-3 | 279 | 07/25/1983 | 1 | LSU |
| 90 | Sopoaga, Isaac | DT | 6-2 | 332 | 09/04/1981 | 2 | Hawaii |
| 76 | Syptak, John | DT | 6-2 | 255 | 03/16/1984 | 0 | Rice |
| 97 | Young, Bryant | DE | 6-3 | 297 | 01/27/1972 | 13 | Notre Dame |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | Clements, Nate | CB | 6-0 | 209 | 12/12/1979 | 6 | Ohio State |
| 29 | Hardy, Jermaine | S | 5-10 | 213 | 03/20/1982 | 1 | Virginia |
| 27 | Harris, Walt | CB | 5-11 | 192 | 08/10/1974 | 11 | Mississippi State |
| 23 | Hudson, Marcus | S | 6-1 | 200 | 11/15/1982 | 1 | N.C. State |
| 28 | Lewis, Keith | S | 6-0 | 210 | 10/20/1981 | 3 | Oregon |
| 32 | Lewis, Michael | S | 6-1 | 222 | 04/29/1980 | 5 | Colorado |
| 26 | Roman, Mark | S | 5-11 | 201 | 03/26/1977 | 7 | LSU |
| 36 | Spencer, Shawntae | CB | 6-1 | 179 | 02/22/1982 | 3 | Pittsburgh |
| 30 | Strickland, Donald | CB | 5-10 | 187 | 11/24/1980 | 4 | Colorado |
| 20 | Tucker, B.J. | CB | 5-10 | 188 | 10/12/1980 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 32 | Vaughn, Vickiel | S | 5-11 | 208 | 10/24/1983 | 0 | Arkansas |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 95 | Banta-Cain, Tully | LB | 6-2 | 250 | 08/28/1980 | 4 | California |
| 57 | Bockwoldt, Colby | LB | 6-2 | 237 | 04/14/1981 | 3 | Brigham Young |
| 54 | Green, Roderick | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 04/26/1982 | 3 | Central Missouri St. |
| 98 | Haralson, Parys | LB | 6-1 | 250 | 01/24/1984 | 1 | Tennessee |
| 55 | Keasey, Zak | LB | 6-0 | 240 | 03/19/1982 | 1 | Princeton |
| 99 | Lawson, Manny | LB | 6-5 | 240 | 07/03/1984 | 1 | N.C. State |
| 56 | Moore, Brandon | LB | 6-1 | 246 | 01/16/1979 | 5 | Oklahoma |
| 55 | Navies, Hannibal | LB | 6-3 | 245 | 07/19/1977 | 8 | Colorado |
| 50 | Smith, Derek | LB | 6-2 | 237 | 01/18/1975 | 10 | Arizona State |
| 53 | Ulbrich, Jeff | LB | 6-0 | 240 | 02/17/1977 | 7 | Hawaii |

| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Lee, Andy | P | 6-0 | 183 | 08/11/1982 | 3 | Pittsburgh |
| 6 | Nedney, Joe | K | 6-5 | 235 | 03/22/1973 | 10 | San Jose State |

**MIKE NOLAN,** HEAD COACH

**Frank Cignetti,** quarterbacks; **Mike Singletary,** asst. head coach/def.; **Greg Manusky,** def. coord.; **Bishop Harris,** running backs; **Pete Hoener,** tight ends; **Jim Hostler,** off. coord.; **Vance Joseph,** secondary; **Mark Nori,** off asst./off. line; **Johnnie Lynn,** secondary; **Jeff Rodgers,** asst. special teams; **Jerry Sullivan,** wide receivers/senior asst.; **Jason Tarver,** def. asst./outside linebackers; **George Warhop,** off. line; **Al Everest,** special teams coord.; **Jim Tomsula,** def. line

# ARIZONA

# 4

**NFC WEST**

2006 Record: 5-11
www.azcardinals.com
UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX STADIUM
Capacity: 63,400 Turf: Grass
Tickets: 602-379-0102

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **OFFENSE** | |
| QB | Matt Leinart |
| FB | Terrelle Smith |
| RB | Edgerrin James |
| LT | Oliver Ross |
| LG | Reggie Wells |
| C | Al Johnson |
| RG | Deuce Lutui |
| RT | Levi Brown |
| TE | Leonard Pope |
| WR | Anquan Boldin |
| WR | Larry Fitzgerald |
| **DEFENSE** | |
| LE | Chike Okeafor |
| LT | Kendrick Clancy |
| RT | Darnell Dockett |
| RE | Antonio Smith |
| LLB | Karlos Dansby |
| MLB | Gerald Hayes |
| RLB | Darryl Blackstock |
| LCB | Antrel Rolle |
| RCB | Roderick Hood |
| SS | Adrian Wilson |
| FS | Aaron Francisco |
| **SPECIAL TEAMS** | |
| P | Scott Player |
| K | Neil Rackers |
| PR | Steve Breaston |
| KR | Steve Breaston |

## POWER RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive Line | 1 |
| Quarterbacks | 3 |
| Running Backs | 3 |
| Receivers | 5 |
| Defensive Line | 2 |
| Linebackers | 2 |
| Secondary | 3 |
| Special Teams | 4 |
| Management | 3 |

## Two heads are better

Hopes are high in Phoenix that the ex-Steelers coaching combo of Whisenhunt and Grimm will transform the Arizona offense.

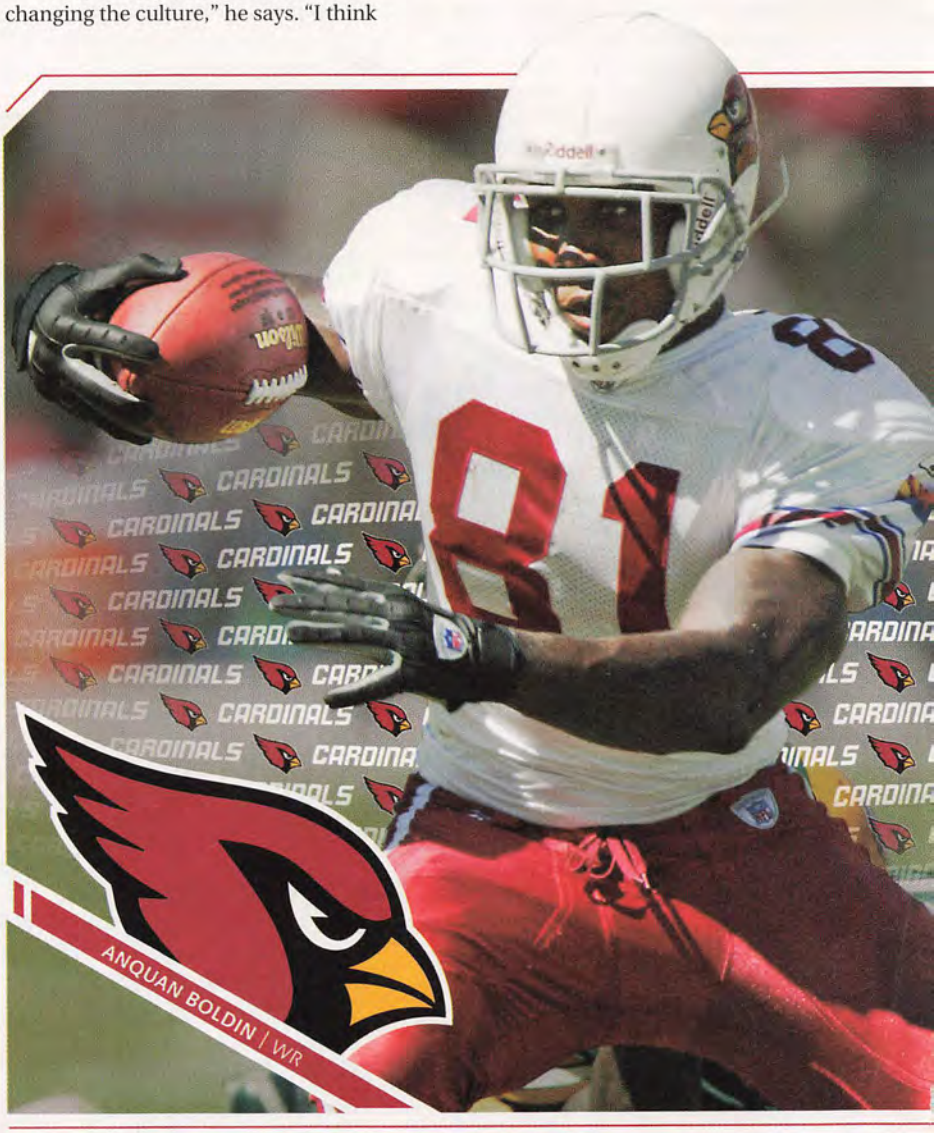
When Whisenhunt becomes the eighth head coach of the Cardinals since they moved to Arizona in 1988. No other team goes through coaches more rapidly.

Like most of his predecessors, Whisenhunt is asked about "changing the culture" of losing. Whisenhunt is more concerned about changing other things, figuring the culture thing will take care of itself.

"I don't worry so much about changing the culture," he says. "I think if you are consistent in one approach, preparing for the games and you have a handle on the players, there are enough good guys on the football team that want to do it the right way."

Whisenhunt looked around and saw a new stadium, decent talent and a promising franchise quarterback in Matt Leinart.

"The thing that was apparent in the games was they didn't finish in




TOM DIPACE

## DRAFT REPORT

With OT Joe Thomas and DE Gaines Adams off the draft board, the Cardinals went with the next best option at left tackle in **Levi Brown**. Entering the draft, Arizona was high on Brown and was not disappointed to add the former Penn State lineman to replace Leonard Davis at left tackle. **Alan Branch** was once considered a top-10 pick, but was one of the big sliders in the weeks prior to the draft. Linebacker **Buster Davis** slipped to the third round due to his lack of height. **Steve Breaston** was added on Day Two and should contribute immediately returning kicks and punts. Tight end **Ben Patrick** was thought to be a late first-day pick, but slid all the way to the seventh round. Patrick should provide quality depth behind Leonard Pope.

**GRADE B-**

### 2007 DRAFTEES

| RD. | PICK | NAME | POS. | HT. | WT. | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | Brown, Levi | T | 6-4 | 328 | Penn State |
| 2 | 1 | Branch, Alan | DT | 6-6 | 331 | Michigan |
| 3 | 5 | Davis, Buster | LB | 5-11 | 246 | Florida State |
| 5 | 5 | Breaston, Steve | WR | 6-1 | 180 | Michigan |
| 7 | 5 | Patrick, Ben | TE | 6-4 | 270 | Delaware |

the fourth quarter and not playing smart football," Whisenhunt says. "I can't tell you the number of times Coach [Bill] Cowher emphasized smart football. That means no dumb penalties, and there were a lot of dumb penalties that kept [the Cardinals] from being successful."

Whisenhunt arrives from Cowher's Pittsburgh Steelers, where he was offensive coordinator. He brings with him Offensive Line Coach Russ Grimm, also a recent NFL head-coaching candidate, so it's sort of a two-for-one deal for the Cardinals.

Since the offensive line has represented the bulk of the Cardinals' problems and cost Dennis Green his job more than anything else, Grimm's value can't be overstated. Hence, he also holds the title "assistant head coach."

Green tried three different offensive line coaches and untold combinations of starters to no avail last season. The Cardinals have spent top draft choices on offensive linemen and bought free agents over the years only to fail miserably to mold the basic foundation of any successful team. No offensive line usually equals no chance.

To nobody's surprise, the first thing Whisenhunt and Grimm did was totally revamp the offensive line. They started by waving goodbye to former top draft choice Leonard Davis in free agency and starting over again with another top-five pick, Penn State's Levi Brown.

The Cardinals paid Dallas backup center Al Johnson more than backup centers usually command—$12.5 million over four years. Johnson's height (6-5) supposedly will make him a better fit for the 6-5 Leinart.

Arizona signed Buffalo free agent Mike Gandy, who played left tackle and left guard for the Bills, and inserted him at right tackle. The Cards took backup right tackle Oliver Ross and made him the starting left tackle. Grimm used to coach Ross in Pittsburgh. Then they took right tackle Reggie Wells and made him the left guard.

Arizona then said everything might change again. Last year's left guard, Milford Brown, and center Nick Leckey remain possibilities.

Levi Brown played left tackle for four years at Penn State, but could switch to the right side if the Cardinals think they would prefer him protecting the backside of the left-handed Leinart.

The point is that Whisenhunt and Grimm know they have to do everything in their power to fashion a unit that will protect Leinart and open bigger holes for last year's big free-agent signing, Edgerrin James.

To give James more help, they signed blocking fullback Terrelle Smith and plan to use more two-back sets than James has ever seen, so his ability to adapt will be interesting to watch. Behind James are Marcel Shipp and

### THE BOOK ON ... Adrian Wilson *(how a rival sizes him up)*

"Wilson is a box safety who makes enough disruptive plays to make up for his shortcomings in coverage. He's an excellent blitzer who times and disguises very well. In pass coverage, the best thing he does is intimidate with big hits, but sometimes he likes big hits a little too much and misses tackles. In space, he's just not real quick and doesn't react quickly or anticipate in zones, but he can blow things up when he connects.

"The defense almost has to be designed around him to take advantage of his strengths and protect his weaknesses."

## 2007 SCHEDULE

**WEEK 1** @ *San Francisco*
SEPT. 10 | 10:15
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 2** vs. *Seattle*
SEPT. 16 | 4:05
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 3** @ *Baltimore*
SEPT. 23 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 4** vs. *Pittsburgh*
SEPT. 30 | 4:15
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 5** @ *St. Louis*
OCT. 7 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 6** vs. *Carolina*
OCT. 14 | 4:05
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 7** @ *Washington*
OCT. 21 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 8** *OPEN DATE*

**WEEK 9** @ *Tampa Bay*
NOV. 4 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 10** vs. *Detroit*
NOV. 11 | 4:15

**MUST-SEE GAME**

*Two of the league's losingest franchises meet to start the second half of the season. It's a chance for frustrated fans to either compare disappointments or find reason to celebrate. It's also a nice matchup between teams with great young receivers.*

W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 11** @ *Cincinnati*
NOV. 18 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 12** vs. *San Francisco*
NOV. 25 | 4:05
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 13** vs. *Cleveland*
DEC. 2 | 4:05
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 14** @ *Seattle*
DEC. 9 | 4:05
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 15** @ *New Orleans*
DEC. 16 | 1:00
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 16** vs. *Atlanta*
DEC. 23 | 4:05
W SCORE ▼
L

**WEEK 17** vs. *St. Louis*
DEC. 30 | 4:15
W SCORE ▼
L

## 2006 FINAL STATS

| DATE | W/L | SCORE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/10 | W | 34-27 | San Francisco |
| 09/17 | L | 10-21 | at Seattle |
| 09/24 | L | 14-16 | St. Louis |
| 10/01 | L | 10-32 | at Atlanta |
| 10/08 | L | 20-23 | Kansas City |
| 10/16 | L | 23-24 | Chicago |
| 10/22 | L | 9-22 | at Oakland |
| 10/29 | L | 14-31 | at Green Bay |
| 11/12 | L | 10-27 | Dallas |
| 11/19 | W | 17-10 | Detroit |
| 11/26 | L | 26-31 | at Minnesota |
| 12/03 | W | 34-20 | at St. Louis |
| 12/10 | W | 27-21 | Seattle |
| 12/17 | L | 20-37 | Denver |
| 12/24 | W | 26-20 | at San Francisco |
| 12/31 | L | 20-27 | at San Diego |

**WON 5, LOST 11**

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| James | 337 | 1159 | 3.4 | 18 | 6 |
| Leinart | 22 | 49 | 2.2 | 14 | 2 |
| Shipp | 17 | 41 | 2.4 | 9t | 4 |
| Ayanbadejo | 9 | 37 | 4.1 | 11 | 0 |
| Boldin | 5 | 28 | 5.6 | 18 | 0 |
| Arrington | 14 | 19 | 1.4 | 9 | 0 |
| Schable | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 |
| Warner | 13 | 3 | 0.2 | 9 | 0 |
| B. Johnson | 1 | -3 | -3.0 | -3 | 0 |
| **Cardinals** | 419 | 1338 | 3.2 | 18 | 12 |
| **Opponents** | 458 | 1897 | 4.1 | 78t | 16 |

| RECEIVING | REC | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boldin | 83 | 1203 | 14.5 | 64 | 4 |
| Fitzgerald | 69 | 946 | 13.7 | 57 | 6 |
| B. Johnson | 40 | 740 | 18.5 | 58 | 4 |
| James | 38 | 217 | 5.7 | 14 | 0 |
| Walters | 23 | 209 | 9.1 | 26 | 2 |
| Ayanbadejo | 17 | 139 | 8.2 | 27 | 0 |
| Pope | 16 | 161 | 10.1 | 33 | 0 |
| Bergen | 15 | 111 | 7.4 | 17 | 1 |
| Arrington | 8 | 58 | 7.3 | 19 | 0 |
| Shipp | 6 | 60 | 10.0 | 22 | 0 |
| Spurlock | 4 | 31 | 7.8 | 15 | 0 |
| Wakefield | 2 | 24 | 12.0 | 19 | 0 |
| Bronson | 1 | 25 | 25.0 | 25 | 0 |
| **Cardinals** | 322 | 3924 | 12.2 | 64 | 17 |
| **Opponents** | 321 | 3932 | 12.2 | 78 | 21 |

| PASSING | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leinart | 377 | 214 | 2547 | 11 | 12 |
| Warner | 168 | 108 | 1377 | 6 | 5 |
| **Cardinals** | 545 | 322 | 3924 | 17 | 17 |
| **Opponents** | 522 | 321 | 3932 | 21 | 16 |

**SACKS**

Okeafor 8.5, Dansby 8, Berry 6, Wilson 5, Smith 2.5, Cooper 2, Dockett 2, Clancy 1, Hayes 1, Pace 1, Watson 1

**CARDINALS 38, OPPONENTS 35**

J.J. Arrington, but James never has been one to job-share.

Leinart, who still has Kurt Warner behind him, had a promising rookie debut and now gets the benefit of a full offseason as the starter, with no questions asked. The Cardinals are blessed with a Super Bowl-ready receiving corps in Anquan Boldin, Larry Fitzgerald and Bryant Johnson, backed by draft choice Steve Breaston and second-year men Micheal Spurlock and Todd Watkins. But this team is living proof that receiving alone can't get a team past five wins.

Whisenhunt added free-agent receiver Sean Morey from the Steelers, but more as a special-teams player and mentor.

"You know, being around Coach [Joe] Gibbs and [Bill] Parcells, one of the things I have learned is they always bring in some guys who know how [the coaches] operate and what their expectations are," Whisenhunt says. "When you get some guys like that in the locker room, they can help spread the message. I think as far as establishing the type of mentality you want or chemistry you want, it is important to get guys like that."

Whisenhunt, a former tight end, likes tight ends enough to use two of them at times. At least one of them has to be an accomplished blocker, which means the Cardinals hope seventh-round draft choice Ben Patrick can develop faster than last year's rookie, Leonard Pope.

The Cardinals finished a lowly 29th on defense last year, but retained coordinator Clancy Pendergast, who will try to experiment with Whisenhunt's fondness for the 3-4 fronts he coached against in practice at Pittsburgh. How that works out will be at least as interesting as the experiment at offensive line. The Cards do appear to have some of the personnel necessary to use some 3-4 schemes.

"Some of the zone-pressure packages and the blitz packages will be a good thing," Whisenhunt says. "I think when you have a safety like Adrian Wilson, such a good blitzer and box player, that

### DID YOU KNOW

Ken Whisenhunt became the eighth Cardinals head coach in the past 19 years following the firing of Dennis Green, who left Arizona with a 16-32 record over three seasons.

Matt Leinart became the 10th Heisman Trophy winner since 1970 to make an NFL start at quarterback, while four other Heisman-winning passers never started a game.

In his first season with Arizona, Edgerrin James became the first Cardinals running back to rush for at least 1,000 yards since Adrian Murrell in 1998. James finished the year with 337 carries (a franchise record), 1,159 yards and six touchdowns, as both totals were his lowest in four seasons.

### CARDINALS' BEST-EVER WIDE RECEIVERS

**1 Roy Green** (1979-90)

*Green set the still-standing record for the NFL's longest kick return at 106 yards before switching to receiver to become the Cardinals' all-time leader in yards (8,497) and scores (66).*

**2 Sonny Randle** (1959-66)

*Randle had some explosive seasons for the Cardinals, making four Pro Bowls and topping 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns twice.*

**3 Mel Gray** (1971-82)

*Gray caught a pass in 121 straight games between 1973 and 1982 and finished his career averaging 18.9 yards per grab.*

### BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

**MATT LEINART**
quarterback

He started 11 games as a rookie after replacing Kurt Warner. No quarterback in the league has more dynamic wide receivers and new Coach Ken Whisenhunt helped turn Ben Roethlisberger into a Super Bowl winner.

### VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE *(an opponent breaks down the Cardinals)*

"[Ken] Whisenhunt was lucky to get [Assistant Head Coach Russ] Grimm to come with him [from Pittsburgh], but the offensive line is still a patchwork. I know they like Levi Brown. It will take Grimm time and more good players to make it work. They've got the skill players, but it doesn't make any difference. ...

"I can't figure out why they kept Clancy Pendergast as defensive coordinator. I think Whisenhunt wants to get to a 3-4 and they don't have the people or coaching to do it. Either way, the front seven just isn't very good as a unit. [Roderick] Hood and [Terrence] Holt will help the secondary, but once again, skill players on the perimeter help only to the extent that the offensive and defensive lines hold up. [Alan] Branch is a make-or-break player. If they motivate him, he can help."

HEADSHOTS COURTESY NFL

## NUMBERS

| CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK | CATEGORY | TEAM STATS | NFL RANK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Offense | 312.5 | 18 | Total Defense | 349.4 | 29 |
| Rushing | 83.6 | 30 | Against Rush | 118.6 | 16 |
| Passing | 228.9 | 10 | Against Pass | 230.9 | 30 |
| Scoring | 314 | 19 | Points Allowed | 389 | 29 |
| Punt Returns | 10.0 | 8 | Interceptions | 16 | 17t |
| Kick Returns | 22.1 | 22 | Sacks | 38 | 12t |
| Red Zone TD % | 46.3 | 20 | Turnover Diff. | +3 | 12 |

### FIRST DOWNS

| TOTAL | RUSH | PASS | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 298 | 84 | 187 | 27 |

### RED ZONE OFFENSE

| POSS. | PTS. | TD | FG |
|---|---|---|---|
| 54 | 238 | 25 | 21 |

### TOUCHDOWNS

| RUSH | PASS | RET. | DEF. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 17 | 1 | 3 |

you have to utilize some of the things that he does. So I think you'll see a couple of different fronts, a couple of different packages off the blitzes that will help keep people on their toes."

In big second-round draft choice Alan Branch, the Cardinals got a player who can either play the nose in a 3-4 or line up as a 4-3 tackle. Tackle Darnell Dockett could slide to end and former end Calvin Pace, now a linebacker, could provide some pass rush. End Chike Okeafor, the team's top sacker, is not a 3-4 end, so he would have to be used in passing situations.

In the 4-3, Okeafor and Antonio Smith started at end, with Dockett and Kendrick Clancy inside. The Cards do have another stereotypical nose tackle in 340-pound Gabe Watson, Branch's former Michigan teammate. Whisenhunt also brought in veteran ends Rodney Bailey from Pittsburgh and Joe Tafoya from Seattle.

Karlos Dansby had eight sacks from his linebacker position and finished second to Gerald Hayes in tackles. Darryl Blackstock, Monty Beisel and Brandon Johnson will also vie for playing time along with short but fiery rookie Buster Davis of Florida State.

The Cards added Detroit safety Terrence Holt and Philadelphia cornerback Roderick Hood to their secondary and both will compete for starting jobs. Losing cornerback David Macklin leaves Antrel Rolle and Eric Green as the starters ahead of Matt Ware, Darrell Hunter and newcomer Ralph Brown.

Pro Bowl safety Wilson finally got his national recognition after compiling five sacks, four interceptions, two fumble recoveries and two touchdowns in 2006. Aaron Francisco is expected to replace Robert Griffith at free safety unless Holt has other plans.

The Cardinals had poor special teams last year as kicker Neil Rackers and punter Scott Player both suffered off-years. Breaston was drafted for his return ability.

**FINAL GRADE**

**70**

STOCK REPORT: UP

## KEY OFFSEASON ADDITIONS

### OFFSEASON EYE-OPENER

**Al Johnson**, C (DAL)

*Paying good money for Dallas backup center Al Johnson indicated how desperate the Cardinals are to upgrade their shaky offensive line.*

- Terrence Holt, S (DET)
- Roderick Hood, CB (PHI)
- Sean Morey, WR (PIT)
- Terrelle Smith, FB (CLE)
- Ross Kolodziej, DE (MIN)
- Ralph Brown, DB (CLE)
- Joe Tafoya, DE (SEA)
- Rodney Bailey, DE (PIT)
- Mike Gandy, OT (BUF)

## KEY OFFSEASON LOSSES

- Fred Wakefield, TE (OAK)
- Leonard Davis, OT (DAL)
- John Navarre, QB (IND)
- Alex Stepanovich, C (CIN)
- Chris Liwienski, OT (MIA)
- David Macklin, CB (WAS)

## THE COUNT

**86.6**

The percentage of Arizona's rushing yards Edgerrin James accounted for in 2006, the highest proportion a single player contributed to his team's rushing total.

**104**

Points scored in the first quarter by the Cardinals, the highest in the NFL. However, Arizona scored just 83 points in the fourth quarter, ninth lowest in the league.

**4,605**

Receiving yards Anquan Boldin has recorded in four seasons at Arizona, the fourth most over a four-year period by any player in NFL history, trailing Randy Moss (5,396, 1998-2001), Torry Holt (5,088, 1999-2002) and Jerry Rice (4,881, 1985-88).

## CARDINALS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Boyd, Shane | QB | 6-1 | 232 | 09/18/1982 | 0 | Kentucky |
| 7 | Leinart, Matt | QB | 6-5 | 230 | 05/11/1983 | 1 | USC |
| 13 | Warner, Kurt | QB | 6-2 | 222 | 06/22/1971 | 9 | Northern Iowa |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 61 | Brown, Elton | G | 6-5 | 340 | 05/22/1982 | 1 | Virginia |
| 67 | Brown, Milford | G | 6-5 | 330 | 08/15/1979 | 4 | Florida State |
| 69 | Gandy, Mike | T | 6-4 | 310 | 01/03/1979 | 5 | Notre Dame |
| 72 | Gorin, Brandon | T | 6-6 | 308 | 07/17/1978 | 3 | Purdue |
| 50 | Johnson, Al | C | 6-5 | 311 | 01/27/1979 | 3 | Wisconsin |
| 60 | Leckey, Nick | C | 6-3 | 291 | 03/12/1982 | 3 | Kansas State |
| 76 | Lutui, Deuce | G | 6-4 | 338 | 05/05/1983 | 1 | USC |
| 73 | Mitchell, Qasim | T | 6-6 | 355 | 12/03/1979 | 3 | N.C. A&T |
| 79 | Ross, Oliver | T | 6-4 | 327 | 09/27/1974 | 7 | Iowa State |
| 74 | Wells, Reggie | G | 6-4 | 318 | 11/03/1980 | 4 | Clarion |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | Arrington, J.J. | RB | 5-9 | 218 | 01/23/1983 | 2 | California |
| 30 | Ayanbadejo, Obafemi | RB | 6-2 | 230 | 03/05/1975 | 8 | San Diego State |
| 32 | James, Edgerrin | RB | 6-0 | 220 | 08/01/1978 | 8 | Miami (FL) |
| 44 | Schable, A.J. | RB | 6-3 | 281 | 05/18/1984 | 1 | South Dakota |
| 31 | Shipp, Marcel | RB | 5-11 | 232 | 08/08/1978 | 5 | Massachusetts |
| 45 | Smith, Terrelle | RB | 6-0 | 246 | 03/12/1978 | 7 | Arizona State |

| # | RECEIVERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 89 | Bergen, Adam | TE | 6-4 | 267 | 09/03/1983 | 2 | Lehigh |
| 83 | Bienemann, Troy | TE | 6-5 | 242 | 02/19/1983 | 0 | Washington State |
| 81 | Boldin, Anquan | WR | 6-1 | 223 | 10/03/1980 | 4 | Florida State |
| 85 | Bronson, John | TE | 6-3 | 275 | 07/08/1982 | 2 | Penn State |
| 11 | Fitzgerald, Larry | WR | 6-3 | 226 | 08/31/1983 | 3 | Pittsburgh |
| 48 | Hodel, Nathan | TE | 6-2 | 242 | 11/12/1977 | 5 | Illinois |
| 80 | Johnson, Bryant | WR | 6-3 | 216 | 03/07/1981 | 4 | Penn State |
| 19 | McCoy, LeRon | WR | 6-1 | 219 | 01/24/1982 | 1 | Indiana (PA) |
| 87 | Morey, Sean | WR | 5-11 | 200 | 02/26/1976 | 5 | Brown |
| 82 | Pope, Leonard | TE | 6-8 | 265 | 09/09/1983 | 1 | Georgia |
| 15 | Spurlock, Micheal | WR | 5-10 | 214 | 01/31/1983 | 1 | Mississippi |
| 14 | Watkins, Todd | WR | 6-2 | 191 | 06/22/1983 | 0 | Brigham Young |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 91 | Bailey, Rodney | DE | 6-3 | 305 | 10/07/1979 | 5 | Ohio State |
| 92 | Berry, Bertrand | DE | 6-3 | 270 | 08/15/1975 | 9 | Notre Dame |
| 70 | Clancy, Kendrick | DT | 6-1 | 305 | 09/17/1978 | 7 | Mississippi |
| 93 | Cooper, Chris | DE | 6-5 | 285 | 12/27/1977 | 5 | Nebraska-Omaha |
| 90 | Dockett, Darnell | DT | 6-4 | 290 | 05/27/1981 | 3 | Florida State |
| 96 | Kolodziej, Ross | DT | 6-3 | 292 | 05/11/1978 | 5 | Wisconsin |
| 63 | Lewis, Jonathan | DT | 6-1 | 312 | 07/12/1984 | 1 | Virginia Tech |
| 56 | Okeafor, Chike | DE | 6-5 | 265 | 03/27/1976 | 8 | Purdue |
| 96 | Palepoi, Anton | DE | 6-4 | 297 | 01/19/1978 | 4 | UNLV |
| 94 | Smith, Antonio | DE | 6-4 | 280 | 10/21/1981 | 3 | Oklahoma State |
| 71 | Tafoya, Joe | DE | 6-4 | 265 | 09/06/1978 | 5 | Arizona |
| 98 | Watson, Gabe | DT | 6-3 | 340 | 09/24/1983 | 1 | Michigan |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | Brown, Ralph | CB | 5-10 | 185 | 09/16/1978 | 7 | Nebraska |
| 47 | Francisco, Aaron | S | 6-2 | 212 | 07/05/1983 | 2 | Brigham Young |
| 25 | Green, Eric | CB | 5-11 | 194 | 03/16/1982 | 2 | Virginia Tech |
| 42 | Holt, Terrence | S | 6-2 | 208 | 03/05/1980 | 4 | N.C. State |
| 26 | Hood, Roderick | CB | 5-11 | 196 | 10/03/1981 | 4 | Auburn |
| 23 | Hunter, Darrell | CB | 6-0 | 206 | 11/29/1983 | 1 | Miami (OH) |
| 37 | Milligan, Hanik | S | 6-3 | 200 | 11/03/1979 | 3 | Houston |
| 21 | Rolle, Antrel | CB | 6-0 | 208 | 12/16/1982 | 2 | Miami (FL) |
| 22 | Ware, Matt | CB | 6-2 | 210 | 12/02/1982 | 3 | UCLA |
| 24 | Wilson, Adrian | S | 6-3 | 230 | 10/12/1979 | 6 | N.C. State |

| # | LINEBACKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 52 | Beisel, Monty | LB | 6-3 | 240 | 08/20/1978 | 6 | Kansas State |
| 55 | Blackstock, Darryl | LB | 6-3 | 240 | 05/30/1983 | 2 | Virginia |
| 58 | Dansby, Karlos | LB | 6-4 | 240 | 11/03/1981 | 3 | Auburn |
| 54 | Hayes, Gerald | LB | 6-1 | 253 | 10/10/1980 | 3 | Pittsburgh |
| 59 | Johnson, Brandon | LB | 6-5 | 224 | 05/05/1983 | 1 | Louisville |
| 97 | Pace, Calvin | LB | 6-4 | 272 | 10/28/1980 | 4 | Wake Forest |

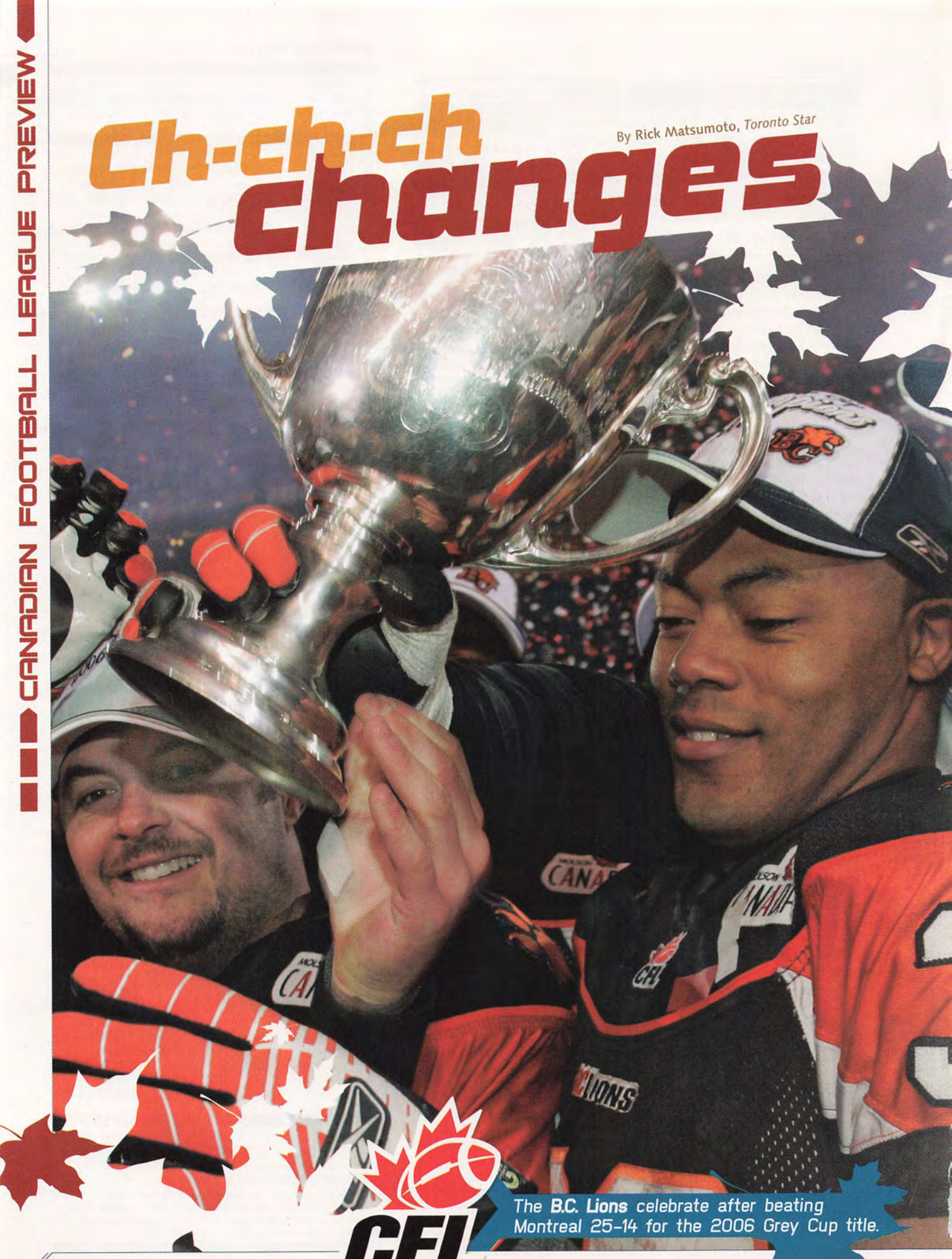
| # | KICKERS | | HT | WT | BORN | EXP | COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Player, Scott | P | 6-1 | 206 | 12/17/1969 | 9 | Florida State |
| 1 | Rackers, Neil | K | 6-1 | 212 | 08/16/1976 | 7 | Illinois |

**KEN WHISENHUNT**, HEAD COACH

**Russ Grimm**, asst. head coach/off. line; **Clancy Pendergast**, def. coord.; **Todd Haley**, off. coord.; **Freddie Kitchens**, tight ends; **Maurice Carthon**, running backs; **Teryl Austin**, def. backs; **Jeff Rutledge**, quarterbacks; **Kevin Spencer**, special teams; **Rick Courtright**, asst. def. backs; **Mike Miller**, wide receivers; **Billy Davis**, linebackers; **Ron Aiken**, def. line

# Ch-ch-ch changes

By Rick Matsumoto, *Toronto Star*



The **B.C. Lions** celebrate after beating Montreal 25-14 for the 2006 Grey Cup title.

## Adapting to a new way of doing business under a salary cap was at the top of a long list of offseason changes in the CFL, where the B.C. Lions look like a good bet to repeat on the field.

The Canadian Football League heads into the 2007 season governed by a new commissioner and fresh $4.05 million salary cap, but also without a team in Ottawa or a headline-making running back by the name of Ricky Williams.

Mark Cohon, the son of McDonald's Canada founder George Cohon, takes over for ex-commish Tom Wright, who battled some reluctant team owners in an effort to control player salaries that were escalating dramatically. Wright lost that battle, however, failing to get the necessary support from the board of governors to receive an extension on his contract.

The 41-year-old Cohon comes to the CFL after working in the sports marketing field with the NBA and Major League Baseball, as well as most recently chairing the Ontario Science Centre. Cohon is confident the unanimous approval his appointment received from the board, along with a five-year contract, means he won't face the same obstacles met by his predecessor.

One of his initial chores will be to make sure teams follow the newly implemented salary limit. And so far CFL owners appear ready to abide by that cap, as a number of aging, high-salaried players were cut by teams in the offseason. Gone are such well-known veterans as defensive end Eric England and linebacker Antonious Bonner of the Toronto Argonauts, B.C. Lions linebacker Carl Kidd, Hamilton Tiger-Cats defensive end James Cotton and defensive backs Singor Mobley and Donald Brady, along with running back Troy Davis of the Edmonton Eskimos.

While Wright won the fight to establish a salary cap, it wasn't enough to keep his job. His fate was sealed with the demise of the Ottawa Renegades just weeks before the opening of the 2006 season. He was heavily criticized for not appearing to be in touch with the crumbling Ottawa franchise until it was too late to keep the club afloat.

Cohon acknowledges the importance of reviving a team in the Canadian capital. But that won't happen until 2008, at the earliest. There are ongoing discussions with a group that includes ex-CFL player Bill Palmer, the father of former New York Giants and San Francisco 49ers backup quarterback Jesse Palmer, who is perhaps better known for his role in the American reality TV show "The Bachelor."

And what about Williams? The former NFL star sailed north on a wave of controversy after he signed with the Argonauts on a one-year "loan" from the Miami Dolphins after he was suspended from the NFL for a year after violating its substance-abuse policy.

Hindered by a broken arm that caused him to miss nine weeks, Williams was anything but the dominant player the Argos and CFL fans hoped he'd be last year. In the end, he slipped quietly back to the U.S., asking for reinstatement to the NFL.

DAMON ALLEN
QUARTERBACK | Toronto

# EAST DIVISION

## 1 Toronto ARGONAUTS

Damon Allen will be back for his 22nd CFL training camp, but is not assured of beginning the year as Toronto's starting quarterback.

Knowing that Allen will turn 44 shortly after the start of this season, the Argos began to look to the future and signed a pair of quarterbacks with NFL experience in Mike McMahon and Tom Arth. McMahon began his career with the Detroit Lions, later moving on to the Philadelphia Eagles, where he started seven games in place of an injured Donovan McNabb in 2005. Arth spent three years with the Indianapolis Colts and saw no game action, but he did get a valuable chance to watch and learn from perennial All-Pro Peyton Manning.

Also in the hunt for the QB job will be holdover Eric Crouch, the 2001 Heisman Trophy winner who was the team's No. 3 pivot last year, and Michael Bishop, who has filled in admirably when Allen was sidelined in the past. They'll all be scrutinized by new Offensive Coordinator Steve Buratto, who comes over from Calgary.

The other major offseason signing was free-agent defensive tackle Adriano Belli, a Toronto native who split time between Hamilton and Montreal last year. He'll help a defense that prided itself on giving up the fewest touchdowns in the league (29) but at times was vulnerable to the running attack.

## 2 Montreal ALOUETTES

Jim Popp came down from the general manager's box midway through last season to assume head-coaching duties when Don Matthews resigned suddenly for health reasons. Popp took the team to the Grey Cup and, while the Alouettes lost to B.C. 25-14 there, he apparently liked it enough to retain the dual role this year.

Wearing his GM hat in the offseason, Popp put his stamp on the team by cutting a number of veteran players, including cornerback Ricky Bell, linebacker Duane Butler, defensive lineman Jerome Haywood and backup quarterback Nealon Greene. He also traded wide receiver Thyron Anderson and safety Richard Karikari.

Popp, however, replaced the departed with free agents in defensive tackle Steve Charbonneau, defensive back Donnavan Carter and linebacker John Grace.

His other notable signing was running back Jarrett Payton, son of the late NFL Hall-of-Famer Walter Payton. The younger Payton, a former University of Miami star,

PHOTOS: JOHN SOKOLOWSKI

will challenge incumbent Robert Edwards for the starting job.

## 3 Hamilton TIGER-CATS

Jason Maas had arthroscopic surgery on his throwing shoulder this winter and the Ti-Cats, especially new Coach Charlie Taaffe, are hoping that a healthy Maas will give Hamilton the same kind of quarterbacking he provided early last season after a much-ballyhooed trade from Edmonton. As a precaution, the Ti-Cats acquired longtime Saskatchewan backup Rocky Butler and signed former University of Hawaii star and all-time NCAA passing-yards leader Timmy Chang.

Hamilton revamped its receiving corps, bringing back Kwame Cavil from Winnipeg as a free agent and adding Kendall Newson, who spent the last three seasons with the Miami Dolphins. The Ti-Cats also released Terry Vaughn and Kamau Peterson and sent D.J. Flick to Saskatchewan in the Butler trade.

Highly regarded Canadian Jesse Lumsden, who has twice returned to Hamilton after failing to make an NFL team, will be the running back after the club declined to re-sign Josh Ranek.

The Ti-Cats also landed free-agent defensive end Nautyn McKay-Loescher from the B.C. Lions when he was unable to secure a deal with his hometown Toronto Argonauts. Many considered McKay-Loescher the cream of the CFL's free-agent crop and he'll step into one of the spots that became vacant when Hamilton released veterans Tim Cheatwood and James Cotton.

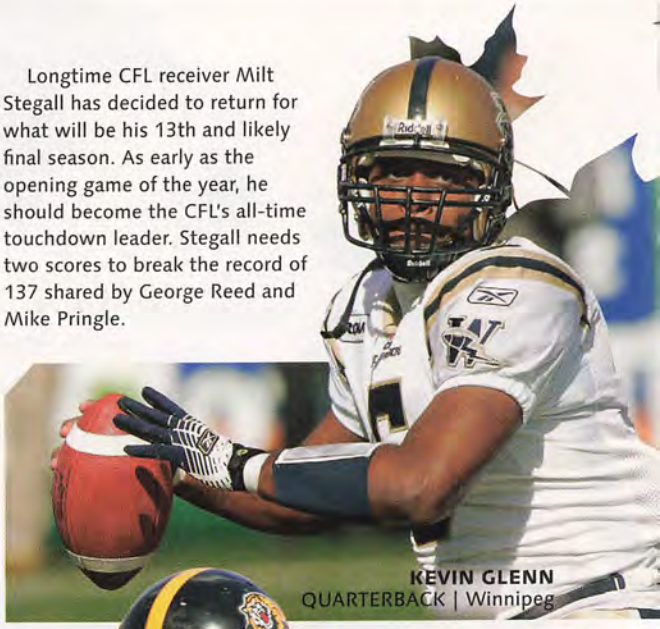
## 4 Winnipeg BLUE BOMBERS

When Doug Berry took over as coach in Winnipeg last year, he brought with him a reputation as the man who helped develop Montreal's Anthony Calvillo into one of the CFL's top quarterbacks.

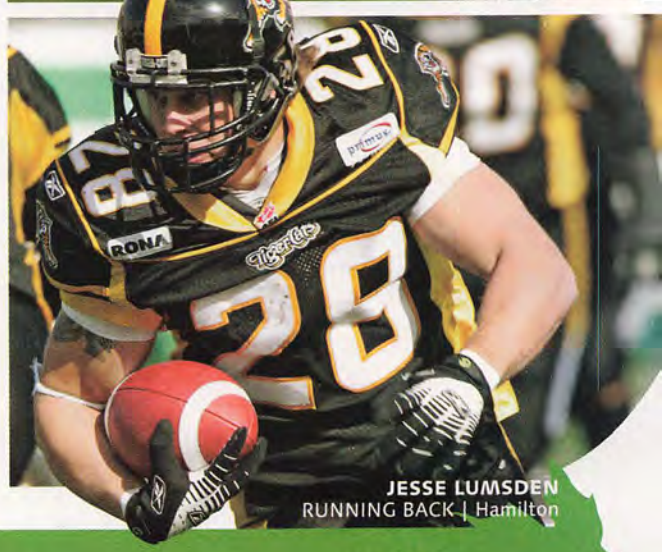
The Bombers were hoping Berry could do the same with Kevin Glenn. While one season does not make a front-line quarterback, Glenn had his most consistent year in six CFL seasons, throwing for 3,427 yards despite missing four games. With Glenn at the helm, the Bombers were 9-5. They lost all four of the games he missed, however, costing them a chance to finish first in the East.

Keeping Glenn healthy this year is a top priority. Winnipeg signed former Colorado State QB Justin Holland, who spent training camp last year with the Miami Dolphins, to compete with Ryan Dinwiddie for backup duty.

Longtime CFL receiver Milt Stegall has decided to return for what will be his 13th and likely final season. As early as the opening game of the year, he should become the CFL's all-time touchdown leader. Stegall needs two scores to break the record of 137 shared by George Reed and Mike Pringle.



KEVIN GLENN
QUARTERBACK | Winnipeg



JESSE LUMSDEN
RUNNING BACK | Hamilton

# CFL STATS

## 2006 STANDINGS

| EAST DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Montreal | 10 | 8 | 0 | .556 | 451 | 431 |
| Toronto | 10 | 8 | 0 | .556 | 359 | 343 |
| Winnipeg | 9 | 9 | 0 | .500 | 362 | 408 |
| Hamilton | 4 | 14 | 0 | .222 | 292 | 495 |

| WEST DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B.C. | 13 | 5 | 0 | .722 | 555 | 355 |
| Calgary | 10 | 8 | 0 | .556 | 477 | 426 |
| Saskatchewan | 9 | 9 | 0 | .500 | 465 | 434 |
| Edmonton | 7 | 11 | 0 | .389 | 399 | 468 |

## SACKS

| | TEAM | NO |
|---|---|---|
| Johnson, Brent | B.C. | 16 |
| Perry, Fred | Saskatchewan | 14 |
| Brown, Robert | Edmonton | 12 |
| Walls, Gavin | Winnipeg | 11 |
| Canada, Tom | Winnipeg | 10 |

## PASSING

| | TEAM | ATT | COMP | PCT | YDS | AVG | TD | TD | LONG | INT | INT | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dickenson, Dave | B.C. | 338 | 238 | 70.4 | 3032 | 9.0 | 22 | 6.5 | 92 | 7 | 2.1 | 111.2 |
| Pierce, Buck | B.C. | 186 | 137 | 73.7 | 1752 | 9.4 | 11 | 5.9 | 67 | 6 | 3.2 | 109.0 |
| Butler, Ian | Saskatchewan | 73 | 38 | 52.1 | 613 | 8.4 | 5 | 6.8 | 80 | 1 | 1.4 | 97.6 |
| Ray, Ricky | Edmonton | 618 | 406 | 65.7 | 5000 | 8.1 | 21 | 3.4 | 69 | 18 | 2.9 | 89.7 |
| Wynn, Spergon | Toronto | 147 | 93 | 63.3 | 1109 | 7.5 | 5 | 3.4 | 75 | 4 | 2.7 | 86.2 |
| Calvillo, Anthony | Montreal | 640 | 402 | 62.8 | 4714 | 7.4 | 20 | 3.1 | 68 | 15 | 2.3 | 85.8 |
| Burris, Henry | Calgary | 537 | 305 | 56.8 | 4453 | 8.3 | 23 | 4.3 | 74 | 18 | 3.4 | 84.3 |
| Glenn, Kevin | Winnipeg | 430 | 249 | 57.9 | 3427 | 8.0 | 17 | 4.0 | 100 | 13 | 3.0 | 84.1 |
| Joseph, Kerry | Saskatchewan | 463 | 267 | 57.7 | 3489 | 7.5 | 22 | 4.8 | 65 | 17 | 3.7 | 82.1 |
| Allen, Damon | Toronto | 335 | 198 | 59.1 | 2567 | 7.7 | 12 | 3.6 | 83 | 11 | 3.3 | 81.5 |

## RUSHING

| | TEAM | NO | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Roberts, Charles | Winnipeg | 303 | 1609 | 5.3 | 33 | 10 |
| Reynolds, Joffrey | Calgary | 259 | 1541 | 5.9 | 53 | 9 |
| Edwards, Robert | Montreal | 239 | 1155 | 4.8 | 35 | 14 |
| Davis, Troy | Edmonton | 190 | 1060 | 5.6 | 44 | 4 |
| Keith, Kenton | Saskatchewan | 167 | 1037 | 6.2 | 38 | 2 |
| Smith, Joe | B.C. | 166 | 887 | 5.3 | 66 | 9 |
| Joseph, Kerry | Saskatchewan | 91 | 583 | 6.4 | 37 | 4 |
| Williams, Ricky | Toronto | 109 | 526 | 4.8 | 35 | 2 |
| Burris, Henry | Calgary | 70 | 480 | 6.9 | 21 | 5 |
| Ray, Ricky | Edmonton | 92 | 469 | 5.1 | 27 | 9 |

## INTERCEPTIONS

| | TEAM | NO | YDS | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miles, Barron | B.C. | 10 | 206 | 33 | 1 |
| Parker, Byron | Toronto | 8 | 348 | 87 | 4 |
| Banks, Korey | B.C. | 7 | 106 | 49 | 1 |
| Rhinehart, Coby | Calgary | 7 | 27 | 15 | 0 |
| Younger, Jordan | Toronto | 6 | 72 | 72 | 1 |
| Carter, Kahlil | Toronto | 5 | 184 | 84 | 1 |
| Bush, Davin | Saskatchewan | 5 | 28 | 14 | 0 |
| Glatt, Javier | B.C. | 4 | 93 | 52 | 0 |
| Marsh, Dante | B.C. | 4 | 63 | 63 | 1 |
| Tiller, Tony | Calgary | 4 | 45 | 31 | 0 |

## SCORING

| NON-KICKERS | TEAM | TD | TDR | TDP | TDM | 2PT | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Edwards, Robert | Montreal | 17 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 102 |
| Simon, Geroy | B.C. | 15 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 90 |
| Tucker, Jason | Edmonton | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| Bruce, Arland | Toronto | 11 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 66 |
| Roberts, Charles | Winnipeg | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 |

| KICKERS | TEAM | XP | XPA | FG | FGA | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DeAngelis, Sandro | Calgary | 42 | 42 | 56 | 65 | 214 |
| Duval, Damon | Montreal | 40 | 40 | 51 | 59 | 201 |
| McCallum, Paul | B.C. | 52 | 52 | 37 | 44 | 167 |
| Congi, Luca | Saskatchewan | 42 | 42 | 38 | 44 | 163 |
| Fleming, Sean | Edmonton | 35 | 36 | 33 | 43 | 141 |

## RECEIVING

| | TEAM | NO | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Simon, Geroy | B.C. | 105 | 1856 | 17.7 | 92 | 15 |
| Cahoon, Ben | Montreal | 99 | 1190 | 12.0 | 51 | 4 |
| Watkins, Kerry | Montreal | 86 | 1153 | 13.4 | 68 | 5 |
| Stegall, Milt | Winnipeg | 79 | 1269 | 16.1 | 100 | 7 |
| Bruce, Arland | Toronto | 77 | 1370 | 17.8 | 94 | 11 |
| Lewis, Nikolas | Calgary | 77 | 1114 | 14.5 | 50 | 5 |
| Hervey, Ed | Edmonton | 76 | 898 | 11.8 | 52 | 3 |
| Tucker, Jason | Edmonton | 75 | 1321 | 17.6 | 47 | 12 |
| Dominguez, Matt | Saskatchewan | 72 | 1169 | 16.2 | 64 | 5 |
| Mitchell, Derrele | Edmonton | 70 | 892 | 12.7 | 69 | 1 |

# WEST DIVISION

## 1 B.C. LIONS

The Grey Cup went back to B.C. last fall for only the fifth time in the club's 52-year-old history and there's no reason why it won't stay with the Lions at the conclusion of the 2007 campaign.

Wally Buono, who was named CFL Coach of the Year for the third time, made few changes to his championship roster.

The Lions did, however, lose defensive end Chris Wilson, who opted for a shot with the Washington Redskins, and his potential replacement, Nautyn McKay-Loescher, who went to Hamilton as a free agent. Also, to meet salary-cap requirements, Buono cut middle linebacker Carl Kidd, receiver Ryan Thelwell and offensive guard Bobby Singh, whose loss was eased by the signing of holdout lineman Rob Murphy to a lucrative contract.

Even with the loss of McKay-Loescher and Wilson, B.C.'s defense should again be strong. The unit is led by Brent Johnson, who was the league's top defensive player and best Canadian last season.

Quarterback Dave Dickenson can be the CFL's best quarterback when healthy, but he has had injury problems over the past couple of seasons. That's perhaps why Dickenson didn't get the guaranteed three-year contract he was seeking heading into an option year. The other reason is that backup Buck Pierce showed in 2006 that he could probably be a starter with some other teams in the league, and he is projected as the eventual replacement for the 34-year-old Dickenson.

Geroy Simon, who led the league with 105 catches and 1,856 yards last year, headlines a talented receiving corps, with import Tony Simmons stepping in as Thelwell's replacement.

## 2 Calgary STAMPEDERS

HENRY BURRIS
QUARTERBACK | Calgary

The Stamps led or were near the top in most 2006 offensive categories, but those statistics meant nothing after their loss to the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the West semifinals.

The defeat cost Steve Buratto his job as offensive coordinator, but many observers believe he was made the scapegoat for the poor clutch play of quarterback Henry Burris, who threw four interceptions and lost a fumble in the playoff game. Burris once again faced questions about his inability to win the big one.

Still, Burris goes into the season as the team's No. 1 quarterback, with former NFL bust Akili Smith seeking to replace retired Danny McManus as the backup.

New Offensive Coordinator George Cortez returns to Calgary, where he served in the same capacity from 1998 to 2001. Cortez will be greeted by a potent offense that returns running back Joffrey Reynolds (1,541 yards) and skilled receivers Nikolas Lewis, Jeremaine Copeland, Elijah Thurmon and Ken-Yon Rambo. Further bolstering Cortez's plans for the passing game will be two free-agent pickups: B.C. Lions salary-cap victim Ryan Thelwell and Marc Boerigter, who returns after five seasons in the NFL.

## 3 Edmonton ESKIMOS

After missing the playoffs for the first time in 35 years, the Eskimos are in unfamiliar territory and, as a result, the axe fell heavily in the offseason.

Edmonton jettisoned running back Troy Davis, linebacker Quincy Stewart and defensive backs Singor Mobley, Donald Brady and Kelly Wiltshire. At the same time, the Eskimos went shopping for free agents, signing defensive backs Omarr Morgan (a seven-year veteran from Saskatchewan) and Stanford Samuels (Winnipeg) while picking up former Hamilton backfield mates Josh Ranek and Kamau Peterson, both of whom had been released by the Tiger-Cats. Edmonton also made a trade with Hamilton, bringing the Eskimos yet another defensive back in Jason Goss.

Quarterback Ricky Ray continues to be the key figure in the offense. He reached 5,000 yards passing for the second consecutive year and threw six fewer interceptions last season than in 2005. Jason Tucker and Mookie Mitchell remain his top targets, and Edmonton added depth with the addition of former Jacksonville Jaguar Fred Stamps to replace the retired Ed Hervey.

## 4 Saskatchewan ROUGHRIDERS

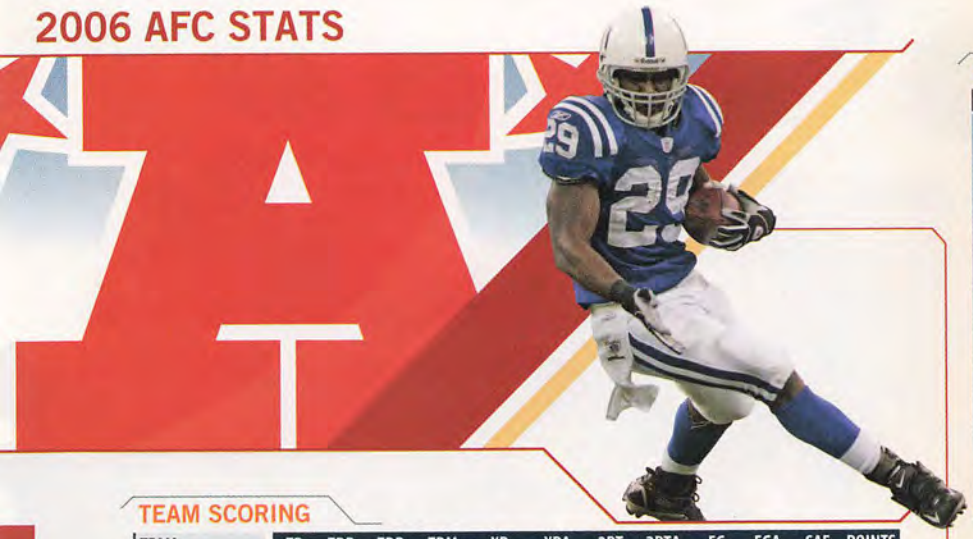
Kent Austin is back in Regina, but this time as the Roughriders' new coach. Austin, who threw for 6,225 yards as Saskatchewan's quarterback in 1992, replaces Danny Barrett, who in seven seasons failed to get the team to the Grey Cup despite five playoff appearances.

Austin, who was fired as the Toronto Argonauts' offensive coordinator midway through last season, faces the task of getting quarterback Kerry Joseph to adapt to his complicated passing system while still making use of Joseph's outstanding running skills.

There's no shortage of top-notch receivers after new GM Eric Tillman traded for D.J. Flick (Hamilton) and Thyron Anderson (Montreal) to go along with Matt Dominguez, Yo Murphy and Jason Armstead.

Saskatchewan lost running back Kenton Keith to the Indianapolis Colts, but signed former University of Iowa star Fred Russell to compete with holdovers Dominique Dorsey and Shermar Bracey for the tailback spot.

# 2006 AFC STATS



## TEAM SCORING

| TEAM | TD | TDR | TDP | TDM | XP | XPA | 2PT | 2PTA | FG | FGA | SAF | POINTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Diego | 59 | 32 | 24 | 3 | 58 | 58 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 29 | 0 | 492 |
| Indianapolis | 50 | 17 | 31 | 2 | 47 | 48 | 1 | 2 | 26 | 29 | 0 | 427 |
| New England | 46 | 20 | 25 | 1 | 43 | 44 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 26 | 1 | 385 |
| Cincinnati | 43 | 14 | 28 | 1 | 40 | 42 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 30 | 0 | 373 |
| Jacksonville | 42 | 23 | 17 | 2 | 41 | 41 | 0 | 1 | 26 | 32 | 0 | 371 |
| Baltimore | 38 | 11 | 21 | 6 | 37 | 37 | 0 | 1 | 28 | 30 | 2 | 353 |
| Pittsburgh | 42 | 16 | 23 | 3 | 41 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 27 | 0 | 353 |
| Kansas City | 37 | 17 | 18 | 2 | 35 | 36 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 31 | 0 | 331 |
| Tennessee | 36 | 15 | 13 | 8 | 32 | 32 | 3 | 3 | 22 | 28 | 2 | 324 |
| Denver | 34 | 12 | 20 | 2 | 34 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 29 | 0 | 319 |
| New York | 35 | 15 | 17 | 3 | 34 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 27 | 0 | 316 |
| Buffalo | 33 | 9 | 19 | 5 | 33 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 25 | 0 | 300 |
| Houston | 30 | 13 | 14 | 3 | 26 | 27 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 25 | 0 | 267 |
| Miami | 26 | 7 | 16 | 3 | 22 | 22 | 2 | 4 | 26 | 36 | 0 | 260 |
| Cleveland | 25 | 7 | 15 | 3 | 25 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 29 | 0 | 238 |
| Oakland | 16 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 16 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 25 | 1 | 168 |
| AFC AVERAGE | 37.0 | 14.6 | 19.3 | 3.2 | 35.3 | 35.7 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 23.4 | 28.6 | 0.4 | 329.8 |

## PASSING

| 241+ Attempts | TEAM | ATT | COMP | PCT | YDS | AVG | TD | TD% | LONG | INT | INT% | SACKS | LOSS | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manning, Peyton | IND | 557 | 362 | 65.0 | 4397 | 7.89 | 31 | 5.6 | 68t | 9 | 1.6 | 14 | 86 | 101.0 |
| Huard, Damon | KC | 244 | 148 | 60.7 | 1878 | 7.70 | 11 | 4.5 | 78 | 1 | 0.4 | 16 | 106 | 98.0 |
| Palmer, Carson | CIN | 520 | 324 | 62.3 | 4035 | 7.76 | 28 | 5.4 | 74t | 13 | 2.5 | 36 | 233 | 93.9 |
| Rivers, Philip | SD | 460 | 284 | 61.7 | 3388 | 7.37 | 22 | 4.8 | 57t | 9 | 2.0 | 27 | 144 | 92.0 |
| Brady, Tom | NE | 516 | 319 | 61.8 | 3529 | 6.84 | 24 | 4.7 | 62t | 12 | 2.3 | 26 | 175 | 87.9 |
| Losman, J.P. | BUF | 429 | 268 | 62.5 | 3051 | 7.11 | 19 | 4.4 | 83t | 14 | 3.3 | 47 | 332 | 84.9 |
| Pennington, Chad | NYJ | 485 | 313 | 64.5 | 3352 | 6.91 | 17 | 3.5 | 71t | 16 | 3.3 | 30 | 172 | 82.6 |
| McNair, Steve | BAL | 468 | 295 | 63.0 | 3050 | 6.52 | 16 | 3.4 | 87t | 12 | 2.6 | 14 | 84 | 82.5 |
| Carr, David | HOU | 442 | 302 | 68.3 | 2767 | 6.26 | 11 | 2.5 | 53 | 12 | 2.7 | 41 | 240 | 82.1 |
| Garrard, David | JAC | 241 | 145 | 60.2 | 1735 | 7.20 | 10 | 4.1 | 49 | 9 | 3.7 | 20 | 119 | 80.5 |
| Roethlisberger, Ben | PIT | 469 | 280 | 59.7 | 3513 | 7.49 | 18 | 3.8 | 67t | 23 | 4.9 | 46 | 280 | 75.4 |
| Frye, Charlie | CLE | 392 | 252 | 64.3 | 2454 | 6.26 | 10 | 2.6 | 75 | 17 | 4.3 | 44 | 262 | 72.2 |
| Plummer, Jake | DEN | 317 | 175 | 55.2 | 1994 | 6.29 | 11 | 3.5 | 83t | 13 | 4.1 | 18 | 111 | 68.8 |
| Harrington, Joey | MIA | 388 | 223 | 57.5 | 2236 | 5.76 | 12 | 3.1 | 48 | 15 | 3.9 | 15 | 116 | 68.2 |
| Young, Vince | TEN | 357 | 184 | 51.5 | 2199 | 6.16 | 12 | 3.4 | 53 | 13 | 3.6 | 25 | 129 | 66.7 |
| Walter, Andrew | OAK | 276 | 147 | 53.3 | 1677 | 6.08 | 3 | 1.1 | 51 | 13 | 4.7 | 46 | 256 | 55.8 |

## NET PUNTING

| 43+ PUNTS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | LONG | AVG | TB | BLK | OPP RET | RET YDS | IN 20 | NET AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colquitt, Dustin | KC | 71 | 3145 | 72 | 44.3 | 5 | 0 | 32 | 254 | 23 | 39.3 |
| Moorman, Brian | BUF | 92 | 4012 | 66 | 43.6 | 7 | 0 | 36 | 265 | 33 | 39.2 |
| Larson, Kyle | CIN | 77 | 3428 | 67 | 44.5 | 11 | 0 | 42 | 236 | 26 | 38.6 |
| Zastudil, Dave | CLE | 81 | 3563 | 61 | 44.0 | 7 | 0 | 43 | 312 | 28 | 38.4 |
| Scifres, Mike | SD | 69 | 2893 | 71 | 41.9 | 2 | 0 | 27 | 216 | 35 | 38.2 |
| Graham, Ben | NYJ | 72 | 3182 | 69 | 44.2 | 11 | 0 | 28 | 205 | 26 | 37.8 |
| Koch, Sam | BAL | 86 | 3695 | 61 | 43.0 | 3 | 0 | 44 | 404 | 30 | 37.6 |
| Hentrich, Craig | TEN | 88 | 3760 | 73 | 42.7 | 10 | 0 | 33 | 278 | 32 | 37.3 |
| Gardocki, Chris | PIT | 65 | 2687 | 56 | 41.3 | 4 | 0 | 38 | 219 | 11 | 36.7 |
| Stanley, Chad | HOU | 76 | 3161 | 62 | 41.6 | 5 | 0 | 36 | 275 | 15 | 36.7 |
| Ernster, Paul | DEN | 80 | 3338 | 61 | 41.7 | 7 | 0 | 39 | 268 | 23 | 36.6 |
| Lechler, Shane | OAK | 77 | 3660 | 67 | 47.5 | 19 | 0 | 34 | 437 | 19 | 36.4 |
| Miller, Josh | NE | 43 | 1848 | 62 | 43.0 | 7 | 0 | 18 | 169 | 12 | 35.8 |
| Jones, Donnie | MIA | 85 | 3640 | 64 | 42.8 | 10 | 0 | 49 | 367 | 28 | 35.7 |
| Smith, Hunter | IND | 47 | 2085 | 61 | 44.4 | 5 | 0 | 25 | 327 | 14 | 34.5 |
| Hanson, Chris | JAC | 72 | 2920 | 58 | 40.6 | 7 | 0 | 29 | 343 | 20 | 33.4 |

## SCORING

| KICKERS | TEAM | XP | XPA | FG | FGA | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kaeding, Nate | SD | 58 | 58 | 26 | 29 | 136 |
| Stover, Matt | BAL | 37 | 37 | 28 | 30 | 121 |
| Scobee, Josh | JAC | 41 | 41 | 26 | 32 | 119 |
| Elam, Jason | DEN | 34 | 34 | 27 | 29 | 115 |
| Graham, Shayne | CIN | 40 | 42 | 25 | 30 | 115 |
| Vinatieri, Adam | IND | 38 | 38 | 25 | 28 | 113 |
| Tynes, Lawrence | KC | 35 | 36 | 24 | 31 | 107 |
| Nugent, Mike | NYJ | 34 | 35 | 24 | 27 | 106 |
| Gostkowski, Stephen | NE | 43 | 44 | 20 | 26 | 103 |
| Lindell, Rian | BUF | 33 | 33 | 23 | 25 | 102 |
| Reed, Jeff | PIT | 41 | 41 | 20 | 27 | 101 |
| Mare, Olindo | MIA | 22 | 22 | 26 | 36 | 100 |
| Bironas, Rob | TEN | 32 | 32 | 22 | 28 | 98 |
| Dawson, Phil | CLE | 25 | 25 | 21 | 29 | 88 |
| Brown, Kris | HOU | 26 | 27 | 19 | 25 | 83 |
| Janikowski, Sebastian | OAK | 16 | 16 | 18 | 25 | 70 |
| Smith, Hunter | IND | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

## SCORING

| NON-KICKERS | TEAM | TD | TDR | TDP | TDM | 2PT | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tomlinson, LaDainian | SD | 31 | 28 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 186 |
| Johnson, Larry | KC | 19 | 17 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 114 |
| Jones-Drew, Maurice | JAC | 16 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 96 |
| Parker, Willie | PIT | 16 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 96 |
| Dillon, Corey | NE | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 78 |
| Harrison, Marvin | IND | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| Johnson, Rudi | CIN | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| Wayne, Reggie | IND | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 56 |
| Gates, Antonio | SD | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Henry, Chris | CIN | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Houshmandzadeh, T.J. | CIN | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Lewis, Jamal | BAL | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Walker, Javon | DEN | 9 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Addai, Joseph | IND | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Bell, Mike | DEN | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Evans, Lee | BUF | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Henry, Travis | TEN | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 44 |
| Young, Vince | TEN | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 44 |
| Johnson, Chad | TEN | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Maroney, Laurence | NE | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Booker, Marty | MIA | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 40 |
| Jackson, Vincent | SD | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 38 |
| Barlow, Kevan | NYJ | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Coles, Laveranues | NYJ | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Cotchery, Jerricho | NYJ | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Edwards, Braylon | CLE | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Heap, Todd | BAL | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| McGahee, Willis | BUF | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Taylor, Fred | JAC | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Ward, Hines | PIT | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Dayne, Ron | HOU | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 32 |
| Gonzalez, Tony | KC | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 32 |
| Brown, Ronnie | MIA | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Clayton, Mark | BAL | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Daniels, Owen | HOU | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Houston, Cedric | NYJ | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Johnson, Andre | HOU | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Kennison, Eddie | KC | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Miller, Heath | PIT | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Rhodes, Dominic | IND | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Brown, Troy | NE | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 26 |
| Caldwell, Reche | NE | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 26 |
| Lundy, Wali | HOU | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 26 |
| Baker, Chris | NYJ | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Chambers, Chris | MIA | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Clark, Dallas | IND | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Droughns, Reuben | CLE | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Jones, Brandon | TEN | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Jones, Matt | JAC | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Jones, Pacman | TEN | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 24 |
| Manning, Peyton | IND | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Scheffler, Tony | DEN | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Washington, Leon | NYJ | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Washington, Nate | PIT | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Williams, Reggie | JAC | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |

VERN VERNA / AI WIRE

## SCORING

| KICKERS | TEAM | XP | XPA | FG | FGA | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gould, Robbie | CHI | 47 | 47 | 32 | 36 | 143 |
| Wilkins, Jeff | STL | 35 | 35 | 32 | 37 | 131 |
| Hanson, Jason | DET | 30 | 30 | 29 | 33 | 117 |
| Nedney, Joe | SF | 29 | 29 | 29 | 35 | 116 |
| Rackers, Neil | ARI | 32 | 32 | 28 | 37 | 116 |
| Carney, John | NO | 46 | 47 | 23 | 25 | 115 |
| Brown, Josh | SEA | 36 | 36 | 25 | 31 | 111 |
| Rayner, Dave | GB | 31 | 32 | 26 | 35 | 109 |
| Feely, Jay | NYG | 38 | 38 | 23 | 27 | 107 |
| Akers, David | PHI | 48 | 48 | 18 | 23 | 102 |
| Kasay, John | CAR | 28 | 28 | 24 | 27 | 100 |
| Longwell, Ryan | MIN | 27 | 28 | 21 | 25 | 90 |
| Andersen, Morten | ATL | 27 | 27 | 20 | 23 | 87 |
| Bryant, Matt | TB | 22 | 23 | 17 | 22 | 73 |
| Vanderjagt, Mike | DAL | 33 | 33 | 13 | 18 | 72 |
| Gramatica, Martin | IND-DAL | 23 | 23 | 7 | 9 | 44 |
| Suisham, Shaun | DAL-SF-WAS | 14 | 14 | 9 | 11 | 41 |
| Hall, John | WAS | 9 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 36 |
| Novak, Nick | WAS | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 25 |
| Koenen, Michael | ATL | 4 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 13 |
| Cundiff, Billy | NO | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

## SCORING

| NON-KICKERS | TEAM | TD | TDR | TDP | TDM | 2PT | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barber, Marion | DAL | 16 | 14 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 96 |
| Jackson, Steven | STL | 16 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 96 |
| Owens, Terrell | DAL | 13 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 80 |
| McAllister, Deuce | NO | 11 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 66 |
| Westbrook, Brian | PHI | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 66 |
| Burress, Plaxico | NYG | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Holt, Torry | STL | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Jackson, Darrell | SEA | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Brown, Reggie | PHI | 9 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Bush, Reggie | NO | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 54 |
| Gore, Frank | SF | 9 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Jacobs, Brandon | NYG | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Smith, Steve | CAR | 9 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Colston, Marques | NO | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Crumpler, Alge | ATL | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Driver, Donald | GB | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Jones, Kevin | DET | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Alexander, Shaun | SEA | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Galloway, Joey | TB | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Jenkins, Michael | ATL | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Portis, Clinton | WAS | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Shockey, Jeremy | NYG | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Williams, Roy | DET | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Cooley, Chris | WAS | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 38 |
| Moss, Santana | WAS | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 38 |
| Benson, Cedric | CHI | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Berrian, Bernard | CHI | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Clark, Desmond | CHI | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Fitzgerald, Larry | ARI | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Furrey, Mike | DET | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Glenn, Terry | DAL | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Green, Ahman | GB | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Henderson, Devery | NO | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Hester, Devin | CHI | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 36 |
| James, Edgerrin | ARI | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Jones, Thomas | CHI | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Taylor, Chester | MIN | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Smith, L.J. | PHI | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 32 |
| Barber, Tiki | NYG | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Betts, Ladell | WAS | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Dunn, Warrick | ATL | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Johnson, Keyshawn | CAR | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Muhammad, Muhsin | CHI | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Stallworth, Donte | PHI | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Horn, Joe | NO | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 26 |
| Stevens, Jerramy | SEA | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 26 |
| Boldin, Anquan | ARI | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Branch, Deion | SEA | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Campbell, Dan | DET | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Crayton, Patrick | DAL | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Curtis, Kevin | STL | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Griffith, Justin | ATL | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Hackett, D.J. | SEA | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Johnson, Bryant | ARI | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Jones, Julius | DAL | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Randle El, Antwaan | WAS | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 24 |
| Robinson, Marcus | MIN | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Shipp, Marcel | ARI | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |

## TEAM SCORING

| TEAM | TD | TDR | TDP | TDM | XP | XPA | 2PT | 2PTA | FG | FGA | SAF | POINTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 47 | 14 | 24 | 9 | 47 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 36 | 1 | 427 |
| Dallas | 52 | 21 | 26 | 5 | 49 | 49 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 28 | 0 | 425 |
| New Orleans | 49 | 19 | 27 | 3 | 46 | 47 | 2 | 2 | 23 | 26 | 0 | 413 |
| Philadelphia | 49 | 13 | 31 | 5 | 48 | 48 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 23 | 0 | 398 |
| St. Louis | 39 | 13 | 24 | 2 | 35 | 35 | 1 | 3 | 32 | 37 | 0 | 367 |
| New York | 41 | 14 | 24 | 3 | 38 | 38 | 0 | 2 | 23 | 27 | 1 | 355 |
| Seattle | 37 | 8 | 26 | 3 | 36 | 36 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 31 | 0 | 335 |
| Arizona | 33 | 12 | 17 | 4 | 32 | 32 | 0 | 1 | 28 | 37 | 0 | 314 |
| Washington | 34 | 13 | 19 | 2 | 31 | 31 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 30 | 1 | 307 |
| Detroit | 31 | 9 | 21 | 1 | 30 | 30 | 0 | 1 | 29 | 33 | 1 | 305 |
| Green Bay | 32 | 9 | 18 | 5 | 31 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 35 | 0 | 301 |
| San Francisco | 30 | 12 | 16 | 2 | 29 | 29 | 0 | 1 | 29 | 35 | 1 | 298 |
| Atlanta | 32 | 9 | 21 | 2 | 31 | 31 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 32 | 0 | 292 |
| Minnesota | 32 | 12 | 13 | 7 | 27 | 28 | 0 | 4 | 21 | 25 | 0 | 282 |
| Carolina | 28 | 7 | 19 | 2 | 28 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 27 | 1 | 270 |
| Tampa Bay | 23 | 6 | 14 | 3 | 22 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 22 | 0 | 211 |
| NFC AVERAGE | 36.8 | 11.9 | 21.3 | 3.6 | 35.0 | 35.3 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 24.5 | 30.3 | 0.4 | 331.3 |

## PASSING

| 260+ ATTEMPTS | TEAM | ATT | COMP | PCT | YARDS | AVG | TD | TD% | LONG | INT | INT% | SACKS | LOSS | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brees, Drew | NO | 554 | 356 | 64.3 | 4418 | 7.97 | 26 | 4.7 | 86t | 11 | 2.0 | 18 | 105 | 96.2 |
| McNabb, Donovan | PHI | 316 | 180 | 57.0 | 2647 | 8.38 | 18 | 5.7 | 87t | 6 | 1.9 | 21 | 140 | 95.5 |
| Romo, Tony | DAL | 337 | 220 | 65.3 | 2903 | 8.61 | 19 | 5.6 | 56t | 13 | 3.9 | 21 | 124 | 95.1 |
| Bulger, Marc | STL | 588 | 370 | 62.9 | 4301 | 7.31 | 24 | 4.1 | 67t | 8 | 1.4 | 49 | 366 | 92.9 |
| Brunell, Mark | WAS | 260 | 162 | 62.3 | 1789 | 6.88 | 8 | 3.1 | 74 | 4 | 1.5 | 12 | 92 | 86.5 |
| Delhomme, Jake | CAR | 431 | 263 | 61.0 | 2805 | 6.51 | 17 | 3.9 | 72t | 11 | 2.6 | 22 | 167 | 82.6 |
| Kitna, Jon | DET | 596 | 372 | 62.4 | 4208 | 7.06 | 21 | 3.5 | 60t | 22 | 3.7 | 63 | 388 | 79.9 |
| Manning, Eli | NYG | 522 | 301 | 57.7 | 3244 | 6.21 | 24 | 4.6 | 55t | 18 | 3.4 | 25 | 186 | 77.0 |
| Hasselbeck, Matt | SEA | 371 | 210 | 56.6 | 2442 | 6.58 | 18 | 4.9 | 72t | 15 | 4.0 | 34 | 229 | 76.0 |
| Vick, Michael | ATL | 388 | 204 | 52.6 | 2474 | 6.38 | 20 | 5.2 | 55 | 13 | 3.4 | 45 | 303 | 75.7 |
| Smith, Alex | SF | 442 | 257 | 58.1 | 2890 | 6.54 | 16 | 3.6 | 75 | 16 | 3.6 | 35 | 202 | 74.8 |
| Leinart, Matt | ARI | 377 | 214 | 56.8 | 2547 | 6.76 | 11 | 2.9 | 58 | 12 | 3.2 | 21 | 158 | 74.0 |
| Grossman, Rex | CHI | 480 | 262 | 54.6 | 3193 | 6.65 | 23 | 4.8 | 62 | 20 | 4.2 | 21 | 142 | 73.9 |
| Favre, Brett | GB | 613 | 343 | 56.0 | 3885 | 6.34 | 18 | 2.9 | 82t | 18 | 2.9 | 21 | 134 | 72.7 |
| Johnson, Brad | MIN | 439 | 270 | 61.5 | 2750 | 6.26 | 9 | 2.1 | 46 | 15 | 3.4 | 29 | 200 | 72.0 |
| Gradkowski, Bruce | TB | 328 | 177 | 54.0 | 1661 | 5.06 | 9 | 2.7 | 53 | 9 | 2.7 | 25 | 146 | 65.9 |

## NET PUNTING

| 56+ PUNTS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | LONG | AVG | TB | BLK | OPP RET | RET YDS | IN 20 | NET AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baker, Jason | CAR | 98 | 4483 | 70 | 45.7 | 12 | 1 | 60 | 382 | 31 | 39.0 |
| McBriar, Mat | DAL | 56 | 2697 | 75 | 48.2 | 10 | 0 | 31 | 334 | 22 | 38.6 |
| Turk, Matt | STL | 72 | 3132 | 74 | 43.5 | 5 | 1 | 26 | 239 | 26 | 38.3 |
| Harris, Nick | DET | 66 | 2967 | 67 | 45.0 | 9 | 0 | 38 | 267 | 18 | 38.2 |
| Maynard, Brad | CHI | 77 | 3404 | 65 | 44.2 | 7 | 0 | 38 | 367 | 24 | 37.6 |
| Weatherford, Steven | NO | 77 | 3369 | 59 | 43.8 | 10 | 0 | 40 | 279 | 19 | 37.5 |
| Plackemeier, Ryan | SEA | 84 | 3778 | 72 | 45.0 | 15 | 0 | 38 | 343 | 25 | 37.3 |
| Feagles, Jeff | NYG | 77 | 3098 | 54 | 40.2 | 3 | 0 | 33 | 191 | 27 | 37.0 |
| Lee, Andy | SF | 81 | 3625 | 66 | 44.8 | 9 | 0 | 35 | 462 | 22 | 36.8 |
| Bidwell, Josh | TB | 93 | 4045 | 59 | 43.5 | 7 | 0 | 50 | 487 | 20 | 36.8 |
| Frost, Derrick | WAS | 81 | 3471 | 60 | 42.9 | 7 | 1 | 45 | 319 | 27 | 36.7 |
| Koenen, Michael | ATL | 76 | 3199 | 65 | 42.1 | 6 | 2 | 25 | 279 | 25 | 35.9 |
| Ryan, Jon | GB | 84 | 3739 | 66 | 44.5 | 12 | 0 | 55 | 503 | 17 | 35.7 |
| Kluwe, Chris | MIN | 93 | 3934 | 68 | 42.3 | 7 | 0 | 50 | 485 | 28 | 35.6 |
| Johnson, Dirk | PHI | 78 | 3326 | 60 | 42.6 | 11 | 0 | 41 | 380 | 21 | 34.9 |
| Player, Scott | ARI | 66 | 2965 | 58 | 44.9 | 3 | 2 | 44 | 562 | 18 | 34.5 |

LES BENTLEY

# 2006 AFC STATS

## RUSHING

| 112+ YARDS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tomlinson, LaDainian | SD | 348 | 1815 | 5.2 | 85t | 28 |
| Johnson, Larry | KC | 416 | 1789 | 4.3 | 47 | 17 |
| Parker, Willie | PIT | 337 | 1494 | 4.4 | 76 | 13 |
| Johnson, Rudi | CIN | 341 | 1309 | 3.8 | 22t | 12 |
| Henry, Travis | TEN | 270 | 1211 | 4.5 | 70t | 7 |
| Taylor, Fred | JAC | 231 | 1146 | 5.0 | 76 | 5 |
| Lewis, Jamal | BAL | 314 | 1132 | 3.6 | 52 | 9 |
| Addai, Joseph | IND | 226 | 1081 | 4.8 | 41 | 7 |
| Bell, Tatum | DEN | 233 | 1025 | 4.4 | 51 | 2 |
| Brown, Ronnie | MIA | 241 | 1008 | 4.2 | 47 | 5 |
| McGahee, Willis | BUF | 259 | 990 | 3.8 | 57t | 6 |
| Jones-Drew, Maurice | JAC | 166 | 941 | 5.7 | 74t | 13 |
| Dillon, Corey | NE | 199 | 812 | 4.1 | 50 | 13 |
| Droughns, Reuben | CLE | 220 | 758 | 3.4 | 22 | 4 |
| Maroney, Laurence | NE | 175 | 745 | 4.3 | 41 | 6 |
| Bell, Mike | DEN | 157 | 677 | 4.3 | 48 | 8 |
| Fargas, Justin | OAK | 178 | 659 | 3.7 | 48 | 1 |
| Washington, Leon | NYJ | 151 | 650 | 4.3 | 23 | 4 |
| Rhodes, Dominic | IND | 187 | 641 | 3.4 | 17 | 5 |
| Dayne, Ron | HOU | 151 | 612 | 4.1 | 19 | 5 |
| Young, Vince | TEN | 83 | 552 | 6.7 | 39t | 7 |
| Turner, Michael | SD | 80 | 502 | 6.3 | 73 | 2 |
| Lundy, Wali | HOU | 124 | 476 | 3.8 | 35 | 4 |
| Jordan, LaMont | OAK | 114 | 434 | 3.8 | 59t | 2 |
| Morris, Sammy | MIA | 92 | 400 | 4.3 | 55 | 1 |

| 112+ YARDS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thomas, Anthony | BUF | 107 | 378 | 3.5 | 19 | 2 |
| Houston, Cedric | NYJ | 113 | 374 | 3.3 | 31 | 5 |
| Barlow, Kevan | NYJ | 131 | 370 | 2.8 | 12 | 6 |
| Garrard, David | JAC | 47 | 250 | 5.3 | 20 | 0 |
| White, LenDale | TEN | 61 | 244 | 4.0 | 26 | 0 |
| Davenport, Najeh | PIT | 60 | 221 | 3.7 | 48 | 1 |
| Frye, Charlie | CLE | 47 | 215 | 4.6 | 17 | 3 |
| Gado, Samkon | HOU | 54 | 217 | 4.0 | 34 | 1 |
| Bennett, Michael | KC | 36 | 200 | 5.6 | 41 | 0 |
| Carr, David | HOU | 53 | 193 | 3.6 | 16 | 2 |
| Wright, Jason | CLE | 62 | 189 | 3.0 | 18 | 0 |
| Anderson, Mike | BAL | 39 | 183 | 4.7 | 34t | 1 |
| Crockett, Zack | OAK | 39 | 163 | 4.2 | 17 | 0 |
| Brown, Chris | TEN | 41 | 156 | 3.8 | 21 | 0 |
| Smith, Musa | BAL | 36 | 153 | 4.3 | 30 | 0 |
| Losman, J.P. | BUF | 38 | 140 | 3.7 | 15 | 1 |
| Neal, Lorenzo | SD | 29 | 140 | 4.8 | 43 | 1 |
| Watson, Kenny | CIN | 25 | 138 | 5.5 | 18 | 1 |
| Brooks, Aaron | OAK | 22 | 124 | 5.6 | 23 | 0 |
| Faulk, Kevin | NE | 25 | 123 | 4.9 | 11t | 1 |
| Taylor, Chris | HOU | 28 | 123 | 4.4 | 17 | 1 |
| Walker, Javon | DEN | 9 | 123 | 13.7 | 72t | 1 |
| McNair, Steve | BAL | 45 | 119 | 2.6 | 19 | 1 |
| Evans, Heath | NE | 27 | 117 | 4.3 | 35 | 0 |
| Plummer, Jake | DEN | 36 | 112 | 3.1 | 19 | 1 |

## RECEIVING

| 20+ CATCHES | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Johnson, Andre | HOU | 103 | 1147 | 11.1 | 53 | 5 |
| Harrison, Marvin | IND | 95 | 1366 | 14.4 | 68t | 12 |
| Coles, Laveranues | NYJ | 91 | 1098 | 12.1 | 58t | 6 |
| Houshmandzadeh, T.J. | CIN | 90 | 1081 | 12.0 | 40t | 9 |
| Winslow, Kellen | CLE | 89 | 875 | 9.8 | 40 | 3 |
| Johnson, Chad | CIN | 87 | 1369 | 15.7 | 74t | 7 |
| Wayne, Reggie | IND | 86 | 1310 | 15.2 | 51t | 9 |
| Evans, Lee | BUF | 82 | 1292 | 15.8 | 83t | 8 |
| Cotchery, Jerricho | NYJ | 82 | 961 | 11.7 | 71t | 6 |
| Ward, Hines | PIT | 74 | 975 | 13.2 | 70t | 6 |
| Gonzalez, Tony | KC | 73 | 900 | 12.3 | 57 | 5 |
| Heap, Todd | BAL | 73 | 765 | 10.5 | 30 | 6 |
| Gates, Antonio | SD | 71 | 924 | 13.0 | 57t | 9 |
| Walker, Javon | DEN | 69 | 1084 | 15.7 | 83t | 8 |
| Mason, Derrick | BAL | 68 | 750 | 11.0 | 38 | 2 |
| Clayton, Mark | BAL | 67 | 939 | 14.0 | 87t | 5 |
| Welker, Wes | MIA | 67 | 687 | 10.3 | 38 | 1 |
| Curry, Ronald | OAK | 62 | 727 | 11.7 | 39 | 1 |
| McMichael, Randy | MIA | 62 | 640 | 10.3 | 24 | 3 |
| Caldwell, Reche | NE | 61 | 760 | 12.5 | 62t | 4 |
| Edwards, Braylon | CLE | 61 | 884 | 14.5 | 75 | 6 |
| Chambers, Chris | MIA | 59 | 677 | 11.5 | 46 | 4 |
| Moulds, Eric | HOU | 57 | 557 | 9.8 | 29 | 1 |
| Tomlinson, LaDainian | SD | 56 | 508 | 9.1 | 51t | 3 |
| Booker, Marty | MIA | 55 | 747 | 13.6 | 52 | 6 |
| Kennison, Eddie | KC | 53 | 860 | 16.2 | 51 | 5 |
| Williams, Reggie | JAC | 52 | 616 | 11.8 | 48 | 4 |
| Smith, Rod | DEN | 52 | 512 | 9.8 | 20 | 3 |
| Holmes, Santonio | PIT | 49 | 824 | 16.8 | 67t | 2 |
| Watson, Benjamin | NE | 49 | 643 | 13.1 | 40 | 3 |
| Price, Peerless | BUF | 49 | 402 | 8.2 | 25 | 3 |
| Parker, Eric | SD | 48 | 659 | 13.7 | 38 | 0 |
| Bennett, Drew | TEN | 46 | 737 | 16.0 | 39 | 0 |
| Jones-Drew, Maurice | JAC | 46 | 436 | 9.5 | 51t | 2 |
| Brown, Troy | NE | 43 | 384 | 8.9 | 23 | 4 |
| Faulk, Kevin | NE | 43 | 356 | 8.3 | 43t | 2 |
| Moss, Randy | OAK | 42 | 553 | 13.2 | 51 | 3 |
| Jones, Matt | JAC | 41 | 643 | 15.7 | 49 | 4 |
| Parker, Samie | KC | 41 | 561 | 13.7 | 43 | 1 |
| Johnson, Larry | KC | 41 | 410 | 10.0 | 78 | 2 |
| Jurevicius, Joe | CLE | 40 | 495 | 12.4 | 52 | 3 |
| Addai, Joseph | IND | 40 | 325 | 8.1 | 21t | 1 |
| Wrighster, George | JAC | 39 | 353 | 9.1 | 23 | 3 |
| Wilson, Cedrick | PIT | 37 | 504 | 13.6 | 38t | 1 |
| Utecht, Ben | IND | 37 | 377 | 10.2 | 26 | 0 |
| Henry, Chris | CIN | 36 | 605 | 16.8 | 71 | 9 |

| 20+ CATCHES | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wilford, Ernest | JAC | 36 | 524 | 14.6 | 41 | 2 |
| McCardell, Keenan | SD | 36 | 437 | 12.1 | 28 | 0 |
| Rhodes, Dominic | IND | 36 | 251 | 7.0 | 27 | 0 |
| Heiden, Steve | CLE | 36 | 249 | 6.9 | 13 | 2 |
| Washington, Nate | PIT | 35 | 624 | 17.8 | 49t | 4 |
| Reed, Josh | BUF | 34 | 410 | 12.1 | 52 | 2 |
| Miller, Heath | PIT | 34 | 393 | 11.6 | 87t | 5 |
| Daniels, Owen | HOU | 34 | 352 | 10.4 | 33t | 5 |
| Wade, Bobby | TEN | 33 | 461 | 14.0 | 25 | 2 |
| Brown, Ronnie | MIA | 33 | 276 | 8.4 | 24 | 0 |
| Lundy, Wali | HOU | 33 | 204 | 6.2 | 15 | 0 |
| Baker, Chris | NYJ | 31 | 300 | 9.7 | 28 | 4 |
| Parker, Willie | PIT | 31 | 222 | 7.2 | 25t | 3 |
| Clark, Dallas | IND | 30 | 367 | 12.2 | 40 | 4 |
| Scaife, Bo | TEN | 29 | 370 | 12.8 | 34 | 2 |
| Williams, Randal | OAK | 28 | 293 | 10.5 | 28 | 0 |
| Jackson, Vincent | SD | 27 | 453 | 16.8 | 55 | 6 |
| Jones, Brandon | TEN | 27 | 384 | 14.2 | 53 | 4 |
| Whitted, Alvis | OAK | 27 | 299 | 11.1 | 33 | 0 |
| Droughns, Reuben | CLE | 27 | 169 | 6.3 | 24 | 0 |
| Hall, Dante | KC | 26 | 204 | 7.8 | 19 | 2 |
| Gabriel, Doug | NE | 25 | 344 | 13.8 | 45 | 3 |
| Anderson, Courtney | OAK | 25 | 285 | 11.4 | 35 | 2 |
| Washington, Leon | NYJ | 25 | 270 | 10.8 | 64 | 0 |
| Bell, Tatum | DEN | 24 | 115 | 4.8 | 16 | 0 |
| McCareins, Justin | NYJ | 23 | 347 | 15.1 | 50 | 1 |
| Parrish, Roscoe | BUF | 23 | 320 | 13.9 | 51t | 2 |
| Taylor, Fred | JAC | 23 | 242 | 10.5 | 36 | 1 |
| Royal, Robert | BUF | 23 | 233 | 10.1 | 33t | 3 |
| Watson, Kenny | CIN | 23 | 213 | 9.3 | 46 | 0 |
| Johnson, Rudi | CIN | 23 | 124 | 5.4 | 18 | 0 |
| Williams, Demetrius | BAL | 22 | 396 | 18.0 | 77t | 2 |
| Northcutt, Dennis | CLE | 22 | 228 | 10.4 | 43 | 0 |
| Maroney, Laurence | NE | 22 | 194 | 8.8 | 31 | 1 |
| Thomas, Anthony | BUF | 22 | 139 | 6.3 | 18 | 0 |
| Smith, Musa | BAL | 22 | 135 | 6.1 | 30 | 0 |
| Kelly, Reggie | CIN | 21 | 254 | 12.1 | 32 | 1 |
| Graham, Daniel | NE | 21 | 235 | 11.2 | 29 | 2 |
| Hagan, Derek | MIA | 21 | 221 | 10.5 | 24 | 1 |
| Mughelli, Ovie | BAL | 21 | 182 | 8.7 | 30t | 2 |
| Morris, Sammy | MIA | 21 | 162 | 7.7 | 44 | 0 |
| Marshall, Brandon | DEN | 20 | 309 | 15.5 | 71t | 2 |
| Wilcox, Daniel | BAL | 20 | 166 | 8.3 | 35 | 3 |
| Bell, Mike | DEN | 20 | 158 | 7.9 | 24 | 0 |
| Lee, ReShard | OAK | 20 | 138 | 6.9 | 15 | 0 |

## RUSHING

| 94+ YARDS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gore, Frank | SF | 312 | 1695 | 5.4 | 72 | 8 |
| Barber, Tiki | NYG | 327 | 1662 | 5.1 | 55t | 5 |
| Jackson, Steven | STL | 346 | 1528 | 4.4 | 59t | 13 |
| Westbrook, Brian | PHI | 240 | 1217 | 5.1 | 71t | 7 |
| Taylor, Chester | MIN | 303 | 1216 | 4.0 | 95t | 6 |
| Jones, Thomas | CHI | 296 | 1210 | 4.1 | 30t | 6 |
| James, Edgerrin | ARI | 337 | 1159 | 3.4 | 18 | 6 |
| Betts, Ladell | WAS | 245 | 1154 | 4.7 | 26 | 4 |
| Dunn, Warrick | ATL | 286 | 1140 | 4.0 | 90t | 4 |
| Jones, Julius | DAL | 267 | 1084 | 4.1 | 77t | 4 |
| Green, Ahman | GB | 266 | 1059 | 4.0 | 70t | 5 |
| McAllister, Deuce | NO | 244 | 1057 | 4.3 | 57 | 10 |
| Vick, Michael | ATL | 123 | 1039 | 8.4 | 51 | 2 |
| Foster, DeShaun | CAR | 227 | 897 | 4.0 | 43t | 3 |
| Alexander, Shaun | SEA | 252 | 896 | 3.6 | 33t | 7 |
| Williams, Cadillac | TB | 225 | 798 | 3.5 | 38 | 1 |
| Jones, Kevin | DET | 181 | 689 | 3.8 | 52 | 6 |
| Barber, Marion | DAL | 135 | 654 | 4.8 | 25 | 14 |
| Benson, Cedric | CHI | 157 | 647 | 4.1 | 30 | 6 |
| Norwood, Jerious | ATL | 99 | 633 | 6.4 | 78t | 2 |
| Morris, Maurice | SEA | 161 | 604 | 3.8 | 29 | 0 |
| Bush, Reggie | NO | 155 | 565 | 3.6 | 18 | 6 |
| Portis, Clinton | WAS | 127 | 523 | 4.1 | 38t | 7 |
| Williams, DeAngelo | CAR | 121 | 501 | 4.1 | 31 | 1 |
| Morency, Vernand | HOU-GB | 96 | 434 | 4.5 | 39 | 2 |

| 94+ YARDS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jacobs, Brandon | NYG | 96 | 423 | 4.4 | 16 | 9 |
| Buckhalter, Correll | PHI | 83 | 345 | 4.2 | 20 | 2 |
| Pittman, Michael | TB | 50 | 245 | 4.9 | 32 | 1 |
| McNabb, Donovan | PHI | 32 | 212 | 6.6 | 37 | 3 |
| Pinner, Artose | MIN | 43 | 190 | 4.4 | 21 | 3 |
| Davis, Stephen | STL | 40 | 177 | 4.4 | 16 | 0 |
| Alstott, Mike | TB | 60 | 171 | 2.9 | 17 | 3 |
| Gradkowski, Bruce | TB | 41 | 161 | 3.9 | 14 | 0 |
| Harris, Arlen | DET | 49 | 158 | 3.2 | 20 | 1 |
| Kitna, Jon | DET | 34 | 156 | 4.6 | 18 | 2 |
| Herron, Noah | GB | 37 | 150 | 4.1 | 19 | 1 |
| Strong, Mack | SEA | 33 | 149 | 4.5 | 17 | 1 |
| Smith, Alex | SF | 43 | 147 | 3.4 | 22 | 2 |
| Duckett, T.J. | WAS | 38 | 132 | 3.5 | 19 | 2 |
| Moore, Mewelde | MIN | 24 | 131 | 5.5 | 15 | 0 |
| Wallace, Seneca | SEA | 12 | 122 | 10.2 | 37 | 0 |
| Randle El, Antwaan | WAS | 19 | 118 | 6.2 | 20 | 0 |
| Robinson, Michael | SF | 38 | 116 | 3.1 | 33 | 2 |
| Hasselbeck, Matt | SEA | 18 | 110 | 6.1 | 19 | 0 |
| Campbell, Jason | WAS | 24 | 107 | 4.5 | 15 | 0 |
| Griffith, Justin | ATL | 19 | 106 | 5.6 | 21t | 1 |
| Romo, Tony | DAL | 34 | 102 | 3.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Fason, Ciatrick | MIN | 18 | 99 | 5.5 | 15 | 1 |
| Cason, Aveion | DET | 24 | 94 | 3.9 | 16 | 0 |
| Gilmore, Bryan | SF | 7 | 94 | 13.4 | 22 | 0 |

## RECEIVING

| 20+ CATCHES | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Furrey, Mike | DET | 98 | 1086 | 11.1 | 31 | 6 |
| Holt, Torry | STL | 93 | 1188 | 12.8 | 67t | 10 |
| Driver, Donald | GB | 92 | 1295 | 14.1 | 82t | 8 |
| Jackson, Steven | STL | 90 | 806 | 9.0 | 64t | 3 |
| Bush, Reggie | NO | 88 | 742 | 8.4 | 74 | 2 |
| Owens, Terrell | DAL | 85 | 1180 | 13.9 | 56t | 13 |
| Boldin, Anquan | ARI | 83 | 1203 | 14.5 | 64 | 4 |
| Smith, Steve | CAR | 83 | 1166 | 14.0 | 72t | 8 |
| Williams, Roy | DET | 82 | 1310 | 16.0 | 60t | 7 |
| Westbrook, Brian | PHI | 77 | 699 | 9.1 | 52t | 4 |
| Bruce, Isaac | STL | 74 | 1098 | 14.8 | 45 | 3 |
| Glenn, Terry | DAL | 70 | 1047 | 15.0 | 54 | 6 |
| Colston, Marques | NO | 70 | 1038 | 14.8 | 86t | 8 |
| Johnson, Keyshawn | CAR | 70 | 815 | 11.6 | 40 | 4 |
| Fitzgerald, Larry | ARI | 69 | 946 | 13.7 | 57 | 6 |
| Shockey, Jeremy | NYG | 66 | 623 | 9.4 | 25 | 7 |
| Witten, Jason | DAL | 64 | 754 | 11.8 | 42 | 1 |
| Burress, Plaxico | NYG | 63 | 988 | 15.7 | 55t | 10 |
| Jackson, Darrell | SEA | 63 | 956 | 15.2 | 72t | 10 |
| Galloway, Joey | TB | 62 | 1057 | 17.0 | 64t | 7 |
| Jones, Kevin | DET | 61 | 520 | 8.5 | 26 | 2 |
| Gore, Frank | SF | 61 | 485 | 8.0 | 39 | 1 |
| Muhammad, Muhsin | CHI | 60 | 863 | 14.4 | 40 | 5 |
| Battle, Arnaz | SF | 59 | 686 | 11.6 | 56 | 3 |
| Barber, Tiki | NYG | 58 | 465 | 8.0 | 28 | 0 |
| Cooley, Chris | WAS | 57 | 734 | 12.9 | 66t | 6 |
| Taylor, Travis | MIN | 57 | 651 | 11.4 | 36 | 3 |
| Crumpler, Alge | ATL | 56 | 780 | 13.9 | 46 | 8 |
| Moss, Santana | WAS | 55 | 790 | 14.4 | 68t | 6 |
| Branch, Deion | SEA | 53 | 725 | 13.7 | 38t | 4 |
| Betts, Ladell | WAS | 53 | 445 | 8.4 | 34 | 1 |
| Berrian, Bernard | CHI | 51 | 775 | 15.2 | 62 | 6 |
| Smith, L.J. | PHI | 50 | 611 | 12.2 | 65 | 5 |
| Pittman, Michael | TB | 47 | 405 | 8.6 | 25 | 0 |
| Brown, Reggie | PHI | 46 | 816 | 17.7 | 60t | 8 |
| Moore, Mewelde | MIN | 46 | 468 | 10.2 | 50 | 1 |
| Wiggins, Jermaine | MIN | 46 | 386 | 8.4 | 24 | 1 |
| Green, Ahman | GB | 46 | 373 | 8.1 | 20 | 1 |
| Jennings, Greg | GB | 45 | 632 | 14.0 | 75t | 3 |
| Clark, Desmond | CHI | 45 | 626 | 13.9 | 33 | 6 |
| Hackett, D.J. | SEA | 45 | 610 | 13.6 | 47 | 4 |
| Taylor, Chester | MIN | 42 | 288 | 6.9 | 24 | 0 |
| Johnson, Bryant | ARI | 40 | 740 | 18.5 | 58 | 4 |
| Bryant, Antonio | SF | 40 | 733 | 18.3 | 72t | 3 |
| Curtis, Kevin | STL | 40 | 479 | 12.0 | 42 | 4 |
| Jenkins, Michael | ATL | 39 | 436 | 11.2 | 34t | 7 |
| Stallworth, Donte | PHI | 38 | 725 | 19.1 | 84t | 5 |

| 20+ CATCHES | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| James, Edgerrin | ARI | 38 | 217 | 5.7 | 14 | 0 |
| Horn, Joe | NO | 37 | 679 | 18.4 | 72t | 4 |
| Williamson, Troy | MIN | 37 | 455 | 12.3 | 46 | 0 |
| Crayton, Patrick | DAL | 36 | 516 | 14.3 | 53t | 4 |
| Jones, Thomas | CHI | 36 | 154 | 4.3 | 21 | 0 |
| Smith, Alex | TB | 35 | 250 | 7.1 | 27 | 3 |
| Hilliard, Ike | TB | 34 | 339 | 10.0 | 44t | 2 |
| Johnson, Eric | SF | 34 | 292 | 8.6 | 26 | 2 |
| Clayton, Michael | TB | 33 | 356 | 10.8 | 27 | 1 |
| Williams, DeAngelo | CAR | 33 | 313 | 9.5 | 41 | 1 |
| Henderson, Devery | NO | 32 | 745 | 23.3 | 76t | 5 |
| Toomer, Amani | NYG | 32 | 360 | 11.3 | 44 | 3 |
| Randle El, Antwaan | WAS | 32 | 351 | 11.0 | 34t | 3 |
| Foster, DeShaun | CAR | 32 | 159 | 5.0 | 14 | 0 |
| White, Roddy | ATL | 30 | 506 | 16.9 | 55 | 0 |
| McAllister, Deuce | NO | 30 | 198 | 6.6 | 24 | 0 |
| Williams, Carnell | TB | 30 | 196 | 6.5 | 21 | 0 |
| Robinson, Marcus | MIN | 29 | 381 | 13.1 | 40t | 4 |
| Herron, Noah | GB | 29 | 211 | 7.3 | 16 | 2 |
| Strong, Mack | SEA | 29 | 159 | 5.5 | 13 | 0 |
| Lelie, Ashley | ATL | 28 | 430 | 15.4 | 51 | 1 |
| Carter, Drew | CAR | 28 | 357 | 12.8 | 42t | 3 |
| Franks, Bubba | GB | 25 | 232 | 9.3 | 19 | 0 |
| McKie, Jason | CHI | 25 | 162 | 6.5 | 26 | 0 |
| Lewis, Greg | PHI | 24 | 348 | 14.5 | 45t | 2 |
| Engram, Bobby | SEA | 24 | 290 | 12.1 | 25 | 1 |
| Buckhalter, Correll | PHI | 24 | 256 | 10.7 | 55t | 1 |
| Copper, Terrance | NO | 23 | 385 | 16.7 | 48t | 3 |
| Lloyd, Brandon | WAS | 23 | 365 | 15.9 | 52 | 0 |
| McMullen, Billy | MIN | 23 | 307 | 13.3 | 40t | 2 |
| Walters, Troy | ARI | 23 | 209 | 9.1 | 26 | 2 |
| Barber, Marion | DAL | 23 | 196 | 8.5 | 26 | 2 |
| Griffith, Justin | ATL | 23 | 168 | 7.3 | 16 | 3 |
| Baskett, Hank | PHI | 22 | 464 | 21.1 | 89t | 2 |
| Davis, Rashied | CHI | 22 | 303 | 13.8 | 31 | 2 |
| Carter, Tim | NYG | 22 | 253 | 11.5 | 27 | 2 |
| Stevens, Jerramy | SEA | 22 | 231 | 10.5 | 26 | 4 |
| Dunn, Warrick | ATL | 22 | 170 | 7.7 | 18 | 1 |
| Martin, Ruvell | GB | 21 | 358 | 17.0 | 36t | 1 |
| Campbell, Dan | DET | 21 | 308 | 14.7 | 30 | 4 |
| Martin, David | GB | 21 | 198 | 9.4 | 23 | 2 |
| Mangum, Kris | CAR | 21 | 170 | 8.1 | 19 | 1 |
| Alstott, Mike | TB | 21 | 85 | 4.0 | 18 | 0 |
| Davis, Vernon | SF | 20 | 265 | 13.3 | 52t | 3 |
| Klopfenstein, Joe | STL | 20 | 226 | 11.3 | 28 | 1 |
| Hoover, Brad | CAR | 20 | 122 | 6.1 | 16 | 0 |

# 2006 AFC STATS

## INTERCEPTIONS

| 2+ INTERCEPTIONS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bailey, Champ | DEN | 10 | 162 | 16.2 | 70t | 1 |
| Samuel, Asante | NE | 10 | 120 | 12.0 | 33 | 0 |
| Mathis, Rashean | JAC | 8 | 146 | 18.3 | 55 | 0 |
| Asomugha, Nnamdi | OAK | 8 | 59 | 7.4 | 24t | 1 |
| McAlister, Chris | BAL | 6 | 121 | 20.2 | 60t | 2 |
| Kaesviharn, Kevin | CIN | 6 | 24 | 4.0 | 22 | 0 |
| Holly, Daven | CLE | 5 | 127 | 25.4 | 57t | 1 |
| Hope, Chris | TEN | 5 | 105 | 21.0 | 61t | 1 |
| Landry, Dawan | BAL | 5 | 101 | 20.2 | 37 | 1 |
| Reed, Ed | BAL | 5 | 70 | 14.0 | 37 | 1 |
| Jones, Sean | CLE | 5 | 46 | 9.2 | 19 | 0 |
| Jones, Pacman | TEN | 4 | 130 | 32.5 | 83t | 1 |
| Jammer, Quentin | SD | 4 | 57 | 14.3 | 35 | 0 |
| Rhodes, Kerry | NYJ | 4 | 46 | 11.5 | 25 | 0 |
| James, Tory | CIN | 4 | 44 | 11.0 | 28 | 0 |
| Williams, Darrent | DEN | 4 | 37 | 9.3 | 31t | 1 |
| Fletcher-Baker, London | BUF | 4 | 30 | 7.5 | 17t | 1 |
| Law, Ty | KC | 4 | 11 | 2.8 | 16 | 0 |
| Washington, Fabian | OAK | 4 | 4 | 1.0 | 7 | 0 |
| Dyson, Andre | NYJ | 4 | -3 | -0.8 | 0 | 0 |

| 2+ INTERCEPTIONS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clements, Nate | BUF | 3 | 80 | 26.7 | 58t | 1 |
| Rolle, Samari | BAL | 3 | 60 | 20.0 | 44 | 0 |
| Polamalu, Troy | PIT | 3 | 51 | 17.0 | 49 | 0 |
| McFadden, Bryant | PIT | 3 | 39 | 13.0 | 39 | 0 |
| Wesley, Greg | KC | 3 | 39 | 13.0 | 29 | 0 |
| Hart, Clinton | SD | 3 | 37 | 12.3 | 22 | 0 |
| Williams, Madieu | CIN | 3 | 33 | 11.0 | 25 | 0 |
| Page, Jarrad | KC | 3 | 30 | 10.0 | 30 | 0 |
| Florence, Drayton | SD | 3 | 24 | 8.0 | 23 | 0 |
| Harper, Nick | IND | 3 | 18 | 6.0 | 19 | 0 |
| June, Cato | IND | 3 | 14 | 4.7 | 8 | 0 |
| Thompson, Lamont | TEN | 3 | 14 | 4.7 | 11 | 0 |
| Edwards, Donnie | SD | 3 | 11 | 3.7 | 8 | 0 |
| Barrett, David | NYJ | 3 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vrabel, Mike | NE | 3 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Hobbs, Ellis | NE | 2 | 79 | 39.5 | 70 | 0 |
| Simpson, Ko | BUF | 2 | 76 | 38.0 | 76 | 0 |
| Taylor, Jason | MIA | 2 | 71 | 35.5 | 51t | 2 |
| Prude, Ronnie | BAL | 2 | 66 | 33.0 | 54 | 1 |
| Porter, Joey | PIT | 2 | 49 | 24.5 | 42t | 1 |

| 2+ INTERCEPTIONS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bodden, Leigh | CLE | 2 | 48 | 24.0 | 35 | 0 |
| Doss, Mike | IND | 2 | 47 | 23.5 | 31 | 0 |
| Smith, Anthony | PIT | 2 | 40 | 20.0 | 20 | 0 |
| Taylor, Ike | PIT | 2 | 34 | 17.0 | 34 | 0 |
| Hill, Renaldo | MIA | 2 | 33 | 16.5 | 21 | 0 |
| Morrison, Kirk | OAK | 2 | 32 | 16.0 | 31 | 0 |
| Scott, Chad | NE | 2 | 32 | 16.0 | 32 | 0 |
| Scott, Bart | BAL | 2 | 31 | 15.5 | 24 | 0 |
| Lewis, Ray | BAL | 2 | 27 | 13.5 | 27 | 0 |
| Grant, Deon | JAC | 2 | 25 | 12.5 | 24 | 0 |
| Hill, Reynaldo | TEN | 2 | 20 | 10.0 | 11 | 0 |
| Davis, Andra | CLE | 2 | 19 | 9.5 | 19 | 0 |
| David, Jason | IND | 2 | 16 | 8.0 | 16 | 0 |
| Robinson, Dunta | HOU | 2 | 9 | 4.5 | 9t | 1 |
| Sensabaugh, Gerald | JAC | 2 | 8 | 4.0 | 8 | 0 |
| Townsend, Deshea | PIT | 2 | 6 | 3.0 | 6 | 0 |
| Simmons, Brian | CIN | 2 | 5 | 2.5 | 5 | 0 |
| Smith, Eric | NYJ | 2 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0 |
| Crowell, Angelo | BUF | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Faggins, Demarcus | HOU | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |

## KICK RETURNS

| 20+ RETURNS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miller, Justin | NYJ | 46 | 1304 | 28.3 | 103t | 2 |
| Maroney, Laurence | NE | 28 | 783 | 28.0 | 77 | 0 |
| Jones-Drew, Maurice | JAC | 31 | 860 | 27.7 | 93 | 1 |
| Turner, Michael | SD | 36 | 954 | 26.5 | 58 | 0 |
| Jones, Pacman | TEN | 20 | 521 | 26.1 | 70 | 0 |
| McGee, Terrence | BUF | 52 | 1355 | 26.1 | 88 | 0 |
| Sams, B.J. | BAL | 30 | 772 | 25.7 | 72 | 0 |
| Carr, Chris | OAK | 69 | 1762 | 25.5 | 50 | 0 |
| Cribbs, Josh | CLE | 61 | 1494 | 24.5 | 92 | 1 |
| Wilkins, Terrence | IND | 52 | 1272 | 24.5 | 70 | 0 |
| Wade, Bobby | TEN | 50 | 1194 | 23.9 | 48 | 0 |
| Hall, Dante | KC | 53 | 1207 | 22.8 | 60 | 0 |
| Clark, Brian | DEN | 23 | 512 | 22.3 | 36 | 0 |
| Welker, Wes | MIA | 48 | 1064 | 22.2 | 46 | 0 |
| Wynn, Dexter | PHI-HOU | 48 | 1032 | 21.5 | 38 | 0 |
| Davenport, Najeh | PIT | 21 | 448 | 21.3 | 40 | 0 |
| Perry, Chris | CIN | 21 | 412 | 19.6 | 36 | 0 |

## SACKS

| 4+ SACKS | TEAM | NO |
|---|---|---|
| Merriman, Shawne | SD | 17 |
| Schobel, Aaron | BUF | 14 |
| Taylor, Jason | MIA | 13.5 |
| Pryce, Trevor | BAL | 13 |
| Phillips, Shaun | SD | 11.5 |
| Burgess, Derrick | OAK | 11 |
| Thomas, Adalius | BAL | 11 |
| Wimbley, Kamerion | CLE | 11 |
| Geathers, Robert | CIN | 10.5 |
| McCray, Bobby | JAC | 10 |
| Sapp, Warren | OAK | 10 |
| Mathis, Robert | IND | 9.5 |
| Scott, Bart | BAL | 9.5 |
| Suggs, Terrell | BAL | 9.5 |
| Colvin, Rosevelt | NE | 8.5 |
| Dumervil, Elvis | DEN | 8.5 |
| Thomas, Bryan | NYJ | 8.5 |
| Hali, Tamba | KC | 8 |
| Allen, Jared | KC | 7.5 |

| 4+ SACKS | TEAM | NO |
|---|---|---|
| Green, Jarvis | NE | 7.5 |
| Smith, Justin | CIN | 7.5 |
| Warren, Ty | NE | 7.5 |
| Castillo, Luis | SD | 7 |
| Ekuban, Ebenezer | DEN | 7 |
| Holliday, Vonnie | MIA | 7 |
| Porter, Joey | PIT | 7 |
| Vanden Bosch, Kyle | TEN | 6.5 |
| Denney, Ryan | BUF | 6 |
| Haggans, Clark | PIT | 6 |
| Hobson, Victor | NYJ | 6 |
| Lang, Kenard | DEN | 6 |
| Banta-Cain, Tully | NE | 5.5 |
| Carter, Kevin | MIA | 5.5 |
| Freeney, Dwight | IND | 5.5 |
| Keisel, Brett | PIT | 5.5 |
| Kelsay, Chris | BUF | 5.5 |
| Babin, Jason | HOU | 5 |
| Bowens, David | MIA | 5 |

| 4+ SACKS | TEAM | NO |
|---|---|---|
| Ellis, Shaun | NYJ | 5 |
| Lewis, Ray | BAL | 5 |
| Meier, Rob | JAC | 5 |
| Rhodes, Kerry | NYJ | 5 |
| Barton, Eric | NYJ | 4.5 |
| Chukwurah, Patrick | DEN | 4.5 |
| Fraser, Simon | CLE | 4.5 |
| Johnson, Derrick | KC | 4.5 |
| Smith, Aaron | PIT | 4.5 |
| Vrabel, Mike | NE | 4.5 |
| Williams, Mario | HOU | 4.5 |
| Cesaire, Jacques | SD | 4 |
| Farrior, James | PIT | 4 |
| Foote, Larry | PIT | 4 |
| Godfrey, Randall | SD | 4 |
| Kaesviharn, Kevin | CIN | 4 |
| McGinest, Willie | CLE | 4 |
| Seymour, Richard | NE | 4 |
| Traylor, Keith | MIA | 4 |

## PUNT RETURNS

| 21+ Returns | TEAM | NO | FC | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jones, Pacman | TEN | 34 | 3 | 440 | 12.9 | 90t | 3 |
| Parrish, Roscoe | BUF | 32 | 9 | 364 | 11.4 | 82t | 1 |
| Northcutt, Dennis | CLE | 28 | 13 | 312 | 11.1 | 81 | 0 |
| Wynn, Dexter | PHI-HOU | 25 | 14 | 270 | 10.8 | 58 | 0 |
| Faulk, Kevin | NE | 31 | 5 | 330 | 10.6 | 43 | 0 |
| Sams, B.J. | BAL | 29 | 4 | 307 | 10.6 | 65 | 0 |
| Holmes, Santonio | PIT | 26 | 21 | 264 | 10.2 | 65t | 1 |
| Welker, Wes | MIA | 41 | 29 | 378 | 9.2 | 47 | 0 |

| 21+ Returns | TEAM | NO | FC | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wilkins, Terrence | IND | 21 | 13 | 193 | 9.2 | 82t | 1 |
| Hall, Dante | KC | 27 | 6 | 240 | 8.9 | 60t | 1 |
| Parker, Eric | SD | 37 | 15 | 331 | 8.9 | 50 | 0 |
| Pearman, Alvin | JAC | 32 | 16 | 283 | 8.8 | 29 | 0 |
| Williams, Darrent | DEN | 25 | 12 | 206 | 8.2 | 34 | 0 |
| Ratliff, Keiwan | CIN | 27 | 9 | 176 | 6.5 | 38 | 0 |
| Carr, Chris | OAK | 35 | 12 | 216 | 6.2 | 35 | 0 |

# RECORDS

### TEAM SCORING
- *Points:* 556, Minnesota (1998)

### PASSING
- *Completions:* 418, Rich Gannon, Oakland (2002)
- *Touchdowns:* 49, Peyton Manning, Indianapolis (2004)
- *Yards:* 5,084, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)
- *Longest TD:* 10 tied with 99 yards, most recent Jeff Garcia to Andre Davis, Cleveland (2004)

### SCORING, KICKERS
- *Points:* 176, Paul Hornung, Green Bay (1960)
- *Field Goals:* 40, Neil Rackers, Arizona (2005)
- *Extra Points:* 66, Uwe von Schamann, Miami (1984)

### SCORING, NON-KICKERS
- *Points:* 186, LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego (2006)
- *Touchdowns:* 31, LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego (2006)

### RUSHING
- *Carries:* 416, Larry Johnson, Kansas City (2006)
- *Yards:* 2,105, Eric Dickerson, L.A. Rams (1984)
- *Touchdowns:* 28, LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego (2006)

### RECEIVING
- *Receptions:* 143, Marvin Harrison, Indianapolis (2002)
- *Yards:* 1,848, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1995)
- *Touchdowns:* 22, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1987)

CHARLES BAUS

## INTERCEPTIONS

| 2+ INTERCEPTIONS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harris, Walt | SF | 8 | 84 | 10.5 | 42 | 1 |
| Woodson, Charles | GB | 8 | 61 | 7.6 | 23t | 1 |
| Sheppard, Lito | PHI | 6 | 157 | 26.2 | 102t | 1 |
| Manning, Ricky | CHI | 5 | 113 | 22.6 | 54t | 1 |
| Williams, Roy | DAL | 5 | 33 | 6.6 | 27 | 0 |
| Tillman, Charles | CHI | 5 | 32 | 6.4 | 13 | 0 |
| Wilson, Adrian | ARI | 4 | 146 | 36.5 | 99t | 1 |
| Hall, DeAngelo | ATL | 4 | 131 | 32.8 | 60 | 1 |
| Smith, Dwight | MIN | 4 | 81 | 20.3 | 47 | 0 |
| Dawkins, Brian | PHI | 4 | 38 | 9.5 | 38 | 0 |
| Winfield, Antoine | MIN | 4 | 33 | 8.3 | 26 | 1 |
| Sharper, Darren | MIN | 4 | 10 | 2.5 | 10 | 0 |
| Fletcher, Jamar | DET | 3 | 122 | 40.7 | 88t | 1 |
| Barber, Ronde | TB | 3 | 103 | 34.3 | 66t | 2 |
| Collins, Nick | GB | 3 | 68 | 22.7 | 55t | 1 |
| Bartell, Ronald | STL | 3 | 63 | 21.0 | 38t | 1 |
| Hamlin, Ken | SEA | 3 | 63 | 21.0 | 37 | 0 |
| Marshall, Richard | CAR | 3 | 59 | 19.7 | 30t | 1 |
| Brooks, Derrick | TB | 3 | 51 | 17.0 | 21t | 1 |
| Watkins, Pat | DAL | 3 | 45 | 15.0 | 24 | 0 |
| Harris, Al | GB | 3 | 39 | 13.0 | 34 | 0 |
| Urlacher, Brian | CHI | 3 | 38 | 12.7 | 36 | 0 |
| Dendy, Patrick | GB | 3 | 37 | 12.3 | 30t | 1 |

| 2+ INTERCEPTIONS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gamble, Chris | CAR | 3 | 31 | 10.3 | 18t | 1 |
| Griffith, Robert | ARI | 3 | 30 | 10.0 | 23 | 0 |
| Hayes, Gerald | ARI | 3 | 24 | 8.0 | 24 | 0 |
| Harris, Napoleon | MIN | 3 | 20 | 6.7 | 11 | 0 |
| Hill, Tye | STL | 3 | 20 | 6.7 | 14 | 0 |
| Brown, Fakhir | STL | 3 | 17 | 5.7 | 20 | 0 |
| Bly, Dre' | DET | 3 | 13 | 4.3 | 8 | 0 |
| Lucas, Ken | CAR | 3 | 13 | 4.3 | 13 | 0 |
| Vasher, Nathan | CHI | 3 | 11 | 3.7 | 7 | 0 |
| Atogwe, O.J. | STL | 3 | 8 | 2.7 | 7 | 0 |
| Holt, Terrence | DET | 3 | 8 | 2.7 | 7 | 0 |
| Lewis, Michael | PHI | 2 | 105 | 52.5 | 84t | 1 |
| Dockery, Kevin | NYG | 2 | 100 | 50.0 | 96t | 1 |
| McQuarters, R.W. | NYG | 2 | 67 | 33.5 | 27t | 1 |
| Francisco, Aaron | ARI | 2 | 61 | 3.05 | 44 | 0 |
| McKenzie, Mike | NO | 2 | 54 | 27.0 | 54 | 0 |
| Henderson, E.J. | MIN | 2 | 48 | 24.0 | 45t | 1 |
| Phillips, Jermaine | TB | 2 | 45 | 22.5 | 29 | 0 |
| Boley, Michael | ATL | 2 | 44 | 22.0 | 40 | 0 |
| Kiwanuka, Mathias | NYG | 2 | 44 | 22.0 | 32 | 0 |
| Henry, Anthony | DAL | 2 | 41 | 20.5 | 37 | 0 |
| Carter, Jerome | STL | 2 | 39 | 19.5 | 36 | 0 |

| 2+ INTERCEPTIONS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hawk, A.J. | GB | 2 | 31 | 15.5 | 25 | 0 |
| Demps, Will | NYG | 2 | 30 | 15.0 | 29 | 0 |
| Madison, Sam | NYG | 2 | 28 | 14.0 | 24 | 0 |
| Manning, Danieal | CHI | 2 | 26 | 13.0 | 15 | 0 |
| Wilson, Gibril | NYG | 2 | 25 | 12.5 | 25 | 0 |
| Lewis, Keith | SF | 2 | 24 | 12.0 | 24 | 0 |
| Brown, Alex | CHI | 2 | 22 | 11.0 | 18 | 0 |
| Fujita, Scott | NO | 2 | 19 | 9.5 | 19 | 0 |
| Harris, Chris | CHI | 2 | 19 | 9.5 | 16 | 0 |
| Briggs, Lance | CHI | 2 | 18 | 9.0 | 18 | 0 |
| Kennedy, Kenoy | DET | 2 | 17 | 8.5 | 17 | 0 |
| Bullocks, Josh | NO | 2 | 14 | 7.0 | 14 | 0 |
| Robbins, Fred | NYG | 2 | 12 | 6.0 | 11 | 0 |
| Stoutmire, Omar | NO | 2 | 10 | 5.0 | 10 | 0 |
| Griffin, Cedric | MIN | 2 | 4 | 2.0 | 4 | 0 |
| Barnett, Nick | GB | 2 | 3 | 1.5 | 3 | 0 |
| Ayodele, Akin | DAL | 2 | 2 | 1.0 | 2 | 0 |
| Boulware, Michael | SEA | 2 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0 |
| Williams, Shaun | CAR | 2 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0 |
| Buchanon, Phillip | HOU-TB | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Coakley, Dexter | STL | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Webster, Jason | ATL | 2 | -2 | -1.0 | 3 | 0 |

## SACKS

| 4+ SACKS | TEAM | NO |
|---|---|---|
| Kampman, Aaron | GB | 15.5 |
| Little, Leonard | STL | 13 |
| Peppers, Julius | CAR | 13 |
| Anderson, Mark | CHI | 12 |
| Ware, DeMarcus | DAL | 11.5 |
| Smith, Will | NO | 10.5 |
| Peterson, Julian | SEA | 10 |
| Okeafor, Chike | ARI | 8.5 |
| Cole, Trent | PHI | 8 |
| Dansby, Karlos | ARI | 8 |
| Redding, Cory | DET | 8 |
| Brown, Alex | CHI | 7 |
| Williams, Corey | GB | 7 |
| Jenkins, Cullen | GB | 6.5 |
| Moore, Brandon | SF | 6.5 |
| Ogunleye, Adewale | CHI | 6.5 |
| Berry, Bertrand | ARI | 6 |

| 4+ SACKS | TEAM | NO |
|---|---|---|
| Carter, Andre | WAS | 6 |
| Coleman, Rod | ATL | 6 |
| Gbaja-Biamila, Kabeer | GB | 6 |
| Grant, Charles | NO | 6 |
| Thomas, Juqua | PHI | 6 |
| Umenyiora, Osi | NYG | 6 |
| Walker, Darwin | PHI | 6 |
| Draft, Chris | CAR | 5.5 |
| Glover, La'Roi | STL | 5.5 |
| Robbins, Fred | NYG | 5.5 |
| Scott, Darrion | MIN | 5.5 |
| Young, Brian | NO | 5.5 |
| Young, Bryant | SF | 5.5 |
| Hall, James | DET | 5 |
| Harris, Tommie | CHI | 5 |
| Howard, Darren | PHI | 5 |
| Rucker, Mike | CAR | 5 |

| 4+ SACKS | TEAM | NO |
|---|---|---|
| Spires, Greg | TB | 5 |
| White, Dewayne | TB | 5 |
| Williams, Kevin | MIN | 5 |
| Wilson, Adrian | ARI | 5 |
| Wyms, Ellis | TB | 5 |
| Ellis, Greg | DAL | 4.5 |
| Green, Roderick | SF | 4.5 |
| Kerney, Patrick | ATL | 4.5 |
| Lewis, Damione | CAR | 4.5 |
| Abraham, John | ATL | 4 |
| Coleman, Kenyon | DAL | 4 |
| Fisher, Bryce | SEA | 4 |
| Kiwanuka, Mathias | NYG | 4 |
| Mallard, Josh | ATL | 4 |
| Ratliff, Jay | DAL | 4 |
| Shanle, Scott | NO | 4 |
| Wistrom, Grant | SEA | 4 |

## KICK RETURNS

| 20+ RETURNS | TEAM | NO | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hester, Devin | CHI | 20 | 528 | 26.4 | 96t | 2 |
| Austin, Miles | DAL | 29 | 753 | 26.0 | 37 | 0 |
| Thompson, Tyson | DAL | 21 | 546 | 26.0 | 41 | 0 |
| Hicks, Maurice | SF | 57 | 1428 | 25.1 | 64 | 0 |
| Burleson, Nate | SEA | 26 | 643 | 24.7 | 50 | 0 |
| Lewis, Michael | NO | 37 | 914 | 24.7 | 51 | 0 |
| Cartwright, Rock | WAS | 64 | 1541 | 24.1 | 100t | 1 |
| Davis, Rashied | CHI | 32 | 753 | 23.5 | 42 | 0 |
| Rossum, Allen | ATL | 46 | 1082 | 23.5 | 51 | 0 |
| Johnson, Bethel | NO-MIN | 45 | 1054 | 23.4 | 65 | 0 |
| Ponder, Willie | SEA-STL | 51 | 1192 | 23.4 | 41 | 0 |
| Arrington, J.J. | ARI | 67 | 1520 | 22.7 | 99t | 1 |
| Mahe, Reno | PHI | 30 | 667 | 22.2 | 64 | 0 |
| Pittman, Michael | TB | 39 | 867 | 22.2 | 37 | 0 |
| Drummond, Eddie | DET | 62 | 1349 | 21.8 | 65 | 0 |
| Morency, Vernand | HOU-GB | 31 | 670 | 21.6 | 35 | 0 |
| Morton, Chad | NYG | 31 | 670 | 21.6 | 51 | 0 |
| Ward, Derrick | NYG | 23 | 466 | 20.3 | 36 | 0 |
| Williams, DeAngelo | CAR | 32 | 623 | 19.5 | 39 | 0 |

| 20+ RETURNS | TEAM | NO | FC | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hester, Devin | CHI | 47 | 12 | 600 | 12.8 | 84t | 3 |
| Drummond, Eddie | DET | 28 | 13 | 296 | 10.6 | 40 | 0 |
| Walters, Troy | ARI | 24 | 12 | 250 | 10.4 | 37 | 0 |
| Moore, Mewelde | MIN | 36 | 9 | 365 | 10.1 | 71t | 1 |
| Newman, Terence | DAL | 20 | 6 | 202 | 10.1 | 56t | 1 |
| Burleson, Nate | SEA | 34 | 7 | 322 | 9.5 | 90t | 1 |
| Morton, Chad | NYG | 29 | 13 | 268 | 9.2 | 38 | 0 |
| Woodson, Charles | GB | 41 | 2 | 363 | 8.9 | 40 | 0 |

## PUNT RETURNS

| 20+ RETURNS | TEAM | NO | FC | YARDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Randle El, Antwaan | WAS | 39 | 11 | 342 | 8.8 | 87t | 1 |
| Jones, Mark | TB | 20 | 4 | 155 | 7.8 | 18 | 0 |
| Rossum, Allen | ATL | 37 | 13 | 288 | 7.8 | 41 | 0 |
| Bush, Reggie | NO | 28 | 2 | 216 | 7.7 | 65t | 1 |
| McDonald, Shaun | STL | 23 | 14 | 172 | 7.5 | 33 | 0 |
| Hilliard, Ike | TB | 24 | 3 | 163 | 6.8 | 16 | 0 |
| Williams, Brandon | SF | 22 | 12 | 147 | 6.7 | 25 | 0 |
| Gamble, Chris | CAR | 36 | 13 | 185 | 5.1 | 24 | 0 |

ROB TRINGALI / SPORTSCHROME

### INTERCEPTIONS

- *Number:* 14, Dick "Night Train" Lane, L.A. Rams (1952)
- *Return Yards:* 358, Ed Reed, Baltimore Ravens (2004)
- *Longest TD Return:* 106, Ed Reed, Baltimore Ravens (2004)
- *Touchdowns:* 3 tied with 4 touchdowns, most recent Eric Allen, Philadelphia (1993)

### PUNTING

- *Number:* 2 tied with 114, most recent Chad Stanley, Houston (2002)
- *Average:* 51.4, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)
- *Longest:* 98, Steve O'Neal, N.Y. Jets (1969)

### PUNT RETURNS

- *Number:* 70, Danny Reece, Tampa Bay (1979)
- *Yards:* 875, Desmond Howard, Green Bay (1996)
- *Longest TD:* 103, Robert Bailey, L.A. Rams (1994)
- *Touchdowns:* 2 tied with 4 touchdowns, most recent Rick Upchurch, Denver (1976)

### KICK RETURNS

- *Number:* 82, MarTay Jenkins, Arizona (2000)
- *Yards:* 2,186, MarTay Jenkins, Arizona (2000)
- *Longest TD:* 3 tied with 106 yards, most recent Roy Green, St. Louis (1979)
- *Touchdowns:* 2 tied with 4 touchdowns, most recent Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)

### SACKS

- *Number:* 22.5, Michael Strahan, N.Y. Giants (2001)

# 2006 SEASON RECAP

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

| EAST DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 12 | 4 | 0 | .750 | 385 | 237 |
| New York Jets* | 10 | 6 | 0 | .625 | 316 | 295 |
| Buffalo | 7 | 9 | 0 | .438 | 300 | 311 |
| Miami | 6 | 10 | 0 | .375 | 260 | 283 |

| NORTH DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baltimore | 13 | 3 | 0 | .812 | 353 | 201 |
| Cincinnati | 8 | 8 | 0 | .500 | 373 | 331 |
| Pittsburgh | 8 | 8 | 0 | .500 | 353 | 315 |
| Cleveland | 4 | 12 | 0 | .250 | 238 | 356 |

| SOUTH DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indianapolis | 12 | 4 | 0 | .750 | 427 | 360 |
| Tennessee | 8 | 8 | 0 | .500 | 324 | 400 |
| Jacksonville | 8 | 8 | 0 | .500 | 371 | 274 |
| Houston | 6 | 10 | 0 | .375 | 267 | 366 |

| WEST DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Diego | 14 | 2 | 0 | .875 | 492 | 303 |
| Kansas City* | 9 | 7 | 0 | .562 | 331 | 315 |
| Denver | 9 | 7 | 0 | .562 | 319 | 305 |
| Oakland | 2 | 14 | 0 | .125 | 168 | 332 |

*wild card

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

| EAST DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 10 | 6 | 0 | .625 | 398 | 328 |
| Dallas* | 9 | 7 | 0 | .562 | 425 | 350 |
| New York Giants* | 8 | 8 | 0 | .500 | 355 | 362 |
| Washington | 5 | 11 | 0 | .312 | 307 | 376 |

| NORTH DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 13 | 3 | 0 | .812 | 427 | 255 |
| Green Bay | 8 | 8 | 0 | .500 | 301 | 366 |
| Minnesota | 6 | 10 | 0 | .375 | 282 | 327 |
| Detroit | 3 | 13 | 0 | .188 | 305 | 398 |

| SOUTH DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Orleans | 10 | 6 | 0 | .625 | 413 | 322 |
| Carolina | 8 | 8 | 0 | .500 | 270 | 305 |
| Atlanta | 7 | 9 | 0 | .438 | 292 | 328 |
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 12 | 0 | .250 | 211 | 353 |

| WEST DIVISION | W | L | T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle | 9 | 7 | 0 | .562 | 335 | 341 |
| St. Louis | 8 | 8 | 0 | .500 | 367 | 381 |
| San Francisco | 7 | 9 | 0 | .438 | 298 | 412 |
| Arizona | 5 | 11 | 0 | .312 | 314 | 389 |

* wild card

## WILD CARD GAMES

| | |
|---|---|
| Kansas City | 8 |
| **INDIANAPOLIS** | **23** |
| New York Jets | 16 |
| **NEW ENGLAND** | **37** |
| Dallas | 20 |
| **SEATTLE** | **21** |
| New York Giants | 20 |
| **PHILADELPHIA** | **23** |

## DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

| | |
|---|---|
| **INDIANAPOLIS** | **15** |
| Baltimore | 6 |
| **NEW ENGLAND** | **24** |
| San Diego | 21 |
| Seattle | 24 |
| **CHICAGO** | **27** |
| Philadelphia | 24 |
| **NEW ORLEANS** | **27** |

## CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

| | |
|---|---|
| **INDIANAPOLIS** | **38** |
| New England | 34 |
| **CHICAGO** | **39** |
| New Orleans | 14 |

## SUPER BOWL XLI

| | |
|---|---|
| **INDIANAPOLIS Colts** | **29** |
| **Chicago Bears** | **17** |

## STATS

### Wild Card Games

**AFC: Kansas City at Indianapolis**

| Team Stats | KC | IND |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 44 | 188 |
| Total net passing | 82 | 247 |
| Total net yards | 126 | 435 |
| First downs | 7 | 28 |
| Sacked-yards lost | 4-25 | 1-5 |
| Third-down conversions | 1-11 | 6-12 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 1-2 | 0-1 |
| Time of possession | 20:37 | 39:23 |

| SCORING | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | FINAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| KC | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| IND | 6 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 23 |

**NFC: Dallas at Seattle**

| Team Stats | DAL | SEA |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 116 | 92 |
| Total net passing | 168 | 240 |
| Total net yards | 284 | 332 |
| First downs | 14 | 19 |
| Sacked-yards lost | 2-21 | 0-0 |
| Third-down conversions | 3-13 | 4-15 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 1-2 | 2-3 |
| Time of possession | 28:23 | 31:37 |

| SCORING | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | FINAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DAL | 3 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 20 |
| SEA | 3 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 21 |

**AFC: New York Jets at New England**

| Team Stats | NYJ | NE |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 70 | 158 |
| Total net passing | 277 | 200 |
| Total net yards | 347 | 358 |
| First downs | 18 | 26 |
| Sacked-yards lost | 3-22 | 1-12 |
| Third-down conversions | 3-11 | 11-16 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 1-2 | 0-0 |
| Time of possession | 26:40 | 33:20 |

| SCORING | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | FINAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NYJ | 3 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 16 |
| NE | 7 | 10 | 6 | 14 | 37 |

**NFC: New York Giants at Philadelphia**

| Team Stats | NYG | PHI |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 151 | 185 |
| Total net passing | 154 | 138 |
| Total net yards | 305 | 323 |
| First downs | 17 | 19 |
| Sacked-yards lost | 1-7 | 2-15 |
| Third-down conversions | 6-15 | 4-13 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Time of possession | 29:36 | 30:24 |

| SCORING | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | FINAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NYG | 7 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 20 |
| PHI | 0 | 17 | 3 | 3 | 23 |

### Divisional Playoffs

**AFC: Indianapolis at Baltimore**

| Team Stats | IND | BAL |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 100 | 83 |
| Total net passing | 161 | 161 |
| Total net yards | 261 | 244 |
| First downs | 15 | 13 |
| Sacked-yards lost | 1-9 | 2-12 |
| Third-down conversions | 8-19 | 2-11 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Time of possession | 31:24 | 28:36 |

| SCORING | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | FINAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| IND | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 15 |
| BAL | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 6 |

**NFC: Seattle at Chicago**

| Team Stats | SEA | CHI |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 127 | 120 |
| Total net passing | 179 | 251 |
| Total net yards | 306 | 371 |
| First downs | 18 | 21 |
| Sacked-yards lost | 3-16 | 3-31 |
| Third-down conversions | 5-15 | 8-20 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 1-3 | 1-1 |
| Time of possession | 27:10 | 32:50 |

| SCORING | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | FINAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SEA | 0 | 14 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| CHI | 7 | 14 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 27 |

**AFC: New England at San Diego**

| Team Stats | NE | SD |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 51 | 148 |
| Total net passing | 276 | 204 |
| Total net yards | 327 | 352 |
| First downs | 18 | 21 |
| Sacked-yards lost | 2-4 | 3-26 |
| Third-down conversions | 4-17 | 5-14 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 0-1 | 1-2 |
| Time of possession | 29:06 | 30:54 |

| SCORING | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | FINAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NE | 3 | 7 | 3 | 11 | 24 |
| SD | 0 | 14 | 0 | 7 | 21 |

**NFC: Philadelphia at New Orleans**

| Team Stats | PHI | NO |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 123 | 208 |
| Total net passing | 232 | 227 |
| Total net yards | 355 | 435 |
| First downs | 14 | 27 |
| Sacked-yards lost | 1-8 | 3-16 |
| Third-down conversions | 5-13 | 6-13 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 0-0 | 1-1 |
| Time of possession | 24:36 | 35:24 |

| SCORING | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | FINAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PHI | 0 | 14 | 7 | 3 | 24 |
| NO | 3 | 10 | 14 | 0 | 27 |

### Conference Championship

**AFC: New England at Indianapolis**

| Team Stats | NE | IND |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 93 | 125 |
| Total net passing | 226 | 330 |
| Total net yards | 319 | 455 |
| First downs | 17 | 32 |
| Sacked-yards lost | 1-6 | 3-19 |
| Third-down conversions | 5-14 | 8-15 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 2-2 | 0-0 |
| Time of possession | 28:45 | 31:15 |

| SCORING | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | FINAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NE | 7 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 34 |
| IND | 3 | 3 | 15 | 17 | 38 |

**NFC: New Orleans at Chicago**

| Team Stats | NO | CHI |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 56 | 196 |
| Total net passing | 319 | 144 |
| Total net yards | 375 | 340 |
| First downs | 15 | 18 |
| Sacked-yards lost | 3-35 | 0-0 |
| Third-down conversions | 5-13 | 3-16 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 0-2 | 2-2 |
| Time of possession | 24:45 | 35:15 |

| SCORING | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | FINAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NO | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 14 |
| CHI | 3 | 13 | 2 | 21 | 39 |

(L TO R): REUTERS / WIRE IMAGE.COM; KEVIN C. COX / WIRE IMAGE.COM

## SUPER BOWL XLI

**AT DOLPHIN STADIUM, MIAMI, FEB. 4, 2007**

**Attendance: 74,512**

| SCORING | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | FINAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 14 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 17 |
| Indianapolis | 6 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 29 |

### SCORING

| | QTR | TIME | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CHI | 1 | 14:46 | Hester 92-yard kick return (Gould kick) |
| IND | 1 | 6:50 | Wayne 53-yard pass from Manning |
| CHI | 1 | 4:34 | Muhammad 4-yard pass from Grossman (Gould kick) |
| IND | 2 | 11:17 | Vinatieri 29-yard field goal |
| IND | 2 | 6:09 | Rhodes 1-yard run (Vinatieri kick) |
| IND | 3 | 7:26 | Vinatieri 24-yard field goal |
| IND | 3 | 3:16 | Vinatieri 20-yard field goal |
| CHI | 3 | 1:14 | Gould 44-yard field goal |
| IND | 4 | 11:44 | Hayden 56-yard interception return (Vinatieri kick) |

### TEAM STATISTICS

| | Chicago | Indianapolis |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 111 | 191 |
| Total net passing | 154 | 239 |
| Total net yards | 265 | 430 |
| First downs | 11 | 24 |
| Sacked-Yards lost | 1-11 | 1-8 |
| Third-down conversions | 3-10 | 8-18 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 0-1 | 0-1 |
| Time of possession | 21:56 | 38:04 |

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING:**

CHICAGO—Jones 15-112, Grossman 2-0, Benson 2- -1

INDIANAPOLIS—Rhodes 21-113-TD, Addai 19-77, Clark 1-1, Manning 1-0

**PASSING:**

CHICAGO—Grossman 20-28-165-1 TD-2 INT

INDIANAPOLIS—Manning 25-38-247-1 TD-1 INT

**RECEIVING:**

CHICAGO—Clark 6-64, Berrian 4-38, Muhammad 3-35-TD, Jones 4-18, McKie 2-8, Davis 1-2

INDIANAPOLIS—Addai 10-66, Wayne 2-61-TD, Harrison 5-59, Clark 4-36, Fletcher 2-9, Rhodes 1-8, Utecht 1-8

**SACKS:**

CHICAGO—Tank Johnson 0.5, Anderson 0.5

INDIANAPOLIS—McFarland 1

## PRO BOWL

| SCORING | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | FINAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NFC | 0 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 28 |
| AFC | 0 | 14 | 7 | 10 | 31 |

### TEAM STATISTICS

| | NFC | AFC |
|---|---|---|
| Total net rushing | 71 | 120 |
| Total net passing | 291 | 325 |
| Total net yards | 362 | 445 |
| First downs | 20 | 21 |
| Sacked-yards lost | 5-21 | 1-3 |
| Third-down conversions | 9-18 | 5-15 |
| Fourth-down conversions | 1-4 | 1-5 |
| Time of possession | 31:25 | 28:35 |

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTIC LEADERS

**RUSHING:**

NFC—Gore 6-26-TD

AFC—Tomlinson 10-51-TD

**PASSING:**

NFC—Romo 11-19-156-1 TD-1 INT

AFC—Palmer 8-17-190-2 TD

**RECEIVING:**

NFC—Boldin 5-86-TD

AFC—Wayne 6-137-TD

**SACKS:**

NFC—Peppers 1

AFC—Burgess 1, Schobel 1, Suggs 1, J. Williams 1

TOMASSO DEROSA

| SUPER BOWLS | | SUPER BOWL MVP |
|---|---|---|
| 1967 | Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10 | Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers |
| 1968 | Green Bay 33, Oakland 14 | Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers |
| 1969 | New York Jets 16, Baltimore 7 | Joe Namath, New York Jets |
| 1970 | Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7 | Len Dawson, Kansas City Chiefs |
| 1971 | Baltimore 16, Dallas 13 | Chuck Howley, Dallas Cowboys |
| 1972 | Dallas 24, Miami 3 | Roger Staubach, Dallas Cowboys |
| 1973 | Miami 14, Washington 7 | Jake Scott, Miami Dolphins |
| 1974 | Miami 24, Minnesota 7 | Larry Csonka, Miami Dolphins |
| 1975 | Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6 | Franco Harris, Pittsburgh Steelers |
| 1976 | Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17 | Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh Steelers |
| 1977 | Oakland 32, Minnesota 14 | Fred Biletnikoff, Oakland Raiders |
| 1978 | Dallas 27, Denver 10 | Randy White and Harvey Martin, Dallas Cowboys |
| 1979 | Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31 | Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers |
| 1980 | Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles Rams 19 | Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers |
| 1981 | Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10 | Jim Plunkett, Oakland Raiders |
| 1982 | San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21 | Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers |
| 1983 | Washington 27, Miami 17 | John Riggins, Washington Redskins |
| 1984 | Los Angeles Raiders 38, Washington 9 | Marcus Allen, Los Angeles Raiders |
| 1985 | San Francisco 38, Miami 16 | Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers |
| 1986 | Chicago 46, New England 10 | Richard Dent, Chicago Bears |
| 1987 | New York Giants 39, Denver 20 | Phil Simms, New York Giants |
| 1988 | Washington 42, Denver 10 | Doug Williams, Washington Redskins |
| 1989 | San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16 | Jerry Rice, San Francisco 49ers |
| 1990 | San Francisco 55, Denver 10 | Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers |
| 1991 | New York Giants 20, Buffalo 19 | Ottis Anderson, New York Giants |
| 1992 | Washington 37, Buffalo 24 | Mark Rypien, Washington Redskins |
| 1993 | Dallas 52, Buffalo 17 | Troy Aikman, Dallas Cowboys |
| 1994 | Dallas 30, Buffalo 13 | Emmitt Smith, Dallas Cowboys |
| 1995 | San Francisco 49, San Diego 26 | Steve Young, San Francisco 49ers |
| 1996 | Dallas 27, Pittsburgh 17 | Larry Brown, Dallas Cowboys |
| 1997 | Green Bay 35, New England 21 | Desmond Howard, Green Bay Packers |
| 1998 | Denver 31, Green Bay 24 | Terrell Davis, Denver Broncos |
| 1999 | Denver 34, Atlanta 19 | John Elway, Denver Broncos |
| 2000 | St. Louis 23, Tennessee 16 | Kurt Warner, St. Louis Rams |
| 2001 | Baltimore 34, New York Giants 7 | Ray Lewis, Baltimore Ravens |
| 2002 | New England 20, St. Louis 17 | Tom Brady, New England Patriots |
| 2003 | Tampa Bay 48, Oakland 21 | Dexter Jackson, Tampa Bay Buccaneers |
| 2004 | New England 32, Carolina 29 | Tom Brady, New England Patriots |
| 2005 | New England 24, Philadelphia 21 | Deion Branch, New England Patriots |
| 2006 | Pittsburgh 21, Seattle 10 | Hines Ward, Pittsburgh Steelers |
| 2007 | Indianapolis 29, Chicago 17 | Peyton Manning, Indianapolis Colts |

## NFL AWARDS

| NFL MVP | | |
|---|---|---|
| Player | Team | Points |
| LaDainian Tomlinson | San Diego | 44 |
| Drew Brees | New Orleans | 4 |
| Peyton Manning | Indianapolis | 2 |

| Offensive Player of the Year | Team | Points |
|---|---|---|
| LaDainian Tomlinson | San Diego | 38 |
| Drew Brees | New Orleans | 8 |
| Peyton Manning | Indianapolis | 3 |
| Steven Jackson | St. Louis | 1 |

| Defensive Player of the Year | Team | Points |
|---|---|---|
| Jason Taylor | Miami | 22 |
| Champ Bailey | Denver | 16 |
| Shawne Merriman | San Diego | 6 |
| Brian Urlacher | Chicago | 4 |
| Ray Lewis | Baltimore | 1 |
| Trevor Pryce | Baltimore | 1 |

| Offensive Rookie of the Year | Team | Points |
|---|---|---|
| Vince Young | Tennessee | 23 |
| Marques Colston | New Orleans | 9 |
| Maurice Jones-Drew | Jacksonville | 9 |
| Marcus McNeill | San Diego | 6 |
| Reggie Bush | New Orleans | 3 |

| Defensive Rookie of the Year | Team | Points |
|---|---|---|
| DeMeco Ryans | Houston | 36 |
| Mark Anderson | Chicago | 5 |
| A.J. Hawk | Green Bay | 4 |
| Kamerion Wimbley | Cleveland | 2 |
| Johnathan Joseph | Cincinnati | 1 |
| Dawan Landry | Baltimore | 1 |

| Comeback Player of the Year | Team | Points |
|---|---|---|
| Chad Pennington | New York Jets | 27 |
| Drew Brees | New Orleans | 8.5 |
| Carson Palmer | Cincinnati | 5.5 |
| Kellen Winslow | Cleveland | 5 |
| Jeff Garcia | Philadelphia | 2 |
| Correll Buckhalter | Philadelphia | 1 |
| Travis Henry | Tennessee | 1 |
| Deuce McAllister | New Orleans | 1 |
| Javon Walker | Denver | 1 |

| Coach of the Year | Team | Points |
|---|---|---|
| Sean Payton | New Orleans | 44 |
| Eric Mangini | New York Jets | 3 |
| Marty Schottenheimer | San Diego | 2 |
| Jeff Fisher | Tennessee | 1 |

| Super Bowl XLI MVP | |
|---|---|
| Peyton Manning | Indianapolis |

| Pro Bowl MVP | |
|---|---|
| Carson Palmer | Cincinnati |

VINCE YOUNG

# 2007 NFL Weekly Schedule

*All times Eastern/Preseason game times subject to change*

## TELEVISED PRESEASON GAMES

**Sunday, Aug. 5**
*Hall of Fame Game (Canton, Ohio)*
New Orleans vs. Pittsburgh 8:00, NFL Network

**Thursday, Aug. 9**
Indianapolis at Dallas 8:00, FOX

**Friday, Aug. 10**
Buffalo at New Orleans 8:00, CBS

**Saturday, Aug. 11**
Washington at Tennessee 8:00, NFL Network

**Sunday, Aug. 12**
Seattle at San Diego 8:00, NBC

**Monday, Aug. 13**
Denver at San Francisco 8:00, ESPN

**Thursday, Aug. 16**
Miami at Kansas City 8:00, ESPN

**Friday, Aug. 17**
Minnesota at N.Y. Jets 8:00, FOX

**Saturday, Aug. 18**
San Diego at St. Louis 8:00, CBS

**Sunday, Aug. 19**
N.Y. Giants at Baltimore 8:00, NBC

**Monday, Aug. 20**
Chicago at Indianapolis 8:00, ESPN

**Thursday, Aug. 23**
Jacksonville at Green Bay 8:00, FOX

**Friday, Aug. 24**
New England at Carolina 8:00, CBS

**Sunday, Aug. 26**
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh 8:00, NBC

**Monday, Aug. 27**
Cincinnati at Atlanta 8:00, ESPN

## REGULAR SEASON GAMES

### › WEEK 1

**Thursday, Sept. 6**
New Orleans at Indianapolis 8:30

**Sunday, Sept. 9**
Atlanta at Minnesota 1:00
Carolina at St. Louis 1:00
Denver at Buffalo 1:00
Kansas City at Houston 1:00
Miami at Washington 1:00
New England at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Philadelphia at Green Bay 1:00
Pittsburgh at Cleveland 1:00
Tennessee at Jacksonville 1:00
Chicago at San Diego 4:15
Detroit at Oakland 4:15
Tampa Bay at Seattle 4:15
N.Y. Giants at Dallas 8:15

**Monday, Sept. 10**
Baltimore at Cincinnati 7:00
Arizona at San Francisco 10:15

### › WEEK 2

**Sunday, Sept. 16**
Atlanta at Jacksonville 1:00
Buffalo at Pittsburgh 1:00
Cincinnati at Cleveland 1:00
Green Bay at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Houston at Carolina 1:00
Indianapolis at Tennessee 1:00
New Orleans at Tampa Bay 1:00
San Francisco at St. Louis 1:00
Dallas at Miami 4:05
Minnesota at Detroit 4:05
Seattle at Arizona 4:05
Kansas City at Chicago 4:15
N.Y. Jets at Baltimore 4:15
Oakland at Denver 4:15
San Diego at New England 8:15

**Monday, Sept. 17**
Washington at Philadelphia 8:30

### › WEEK 3

**Sunday, Sept. 23**
Arizona at Baltimore 1:00
Buffalo at New England 1:00
Detroit at Philadelphia 1:00
Indianapolis at Houston 1:00
Miami at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Minnesota at Kansas City 1:00
San Diego at Green Bay 1:00
San Francisco at Pittsburgh 1:00
St. Louis at Tampa Bay 1:00
Cincinnati at Seattle 4:05
Cleveland at Oakland 4:05
Jacksonville at Denver 4:05
Carolina at Atlanta 4:15
N.Y. Giants at Washington 4:15
Dallas at Chicago 8:15

**Monday, Sept. 24**
Tennessee at New Orleans 8:30

### › WEEK 4

*(Open date: Jacksonville, New Orleans, Tennessee, Washington)*

**Sunday, Sept. 30**
Baltimore at Cleveland 1:00
Chicago at Detroit 1:00
Green Bay at Minnesota 1:00
Houston at Atlanta 1:00
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo 1:00
Oakland at Miami 1:00
St. Louis at Dallas 1:00
Seattle at San Francisco 4:05
Tampa Bay at Carolina 4:05
Denver at Indianapolis 4:15
Kansas City at San Diego 4:15
Pittsburgh at Arizona 4:15
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants 8:15

**Monday, Oct. 1**
New England at Cincinnati 8:30

### › WEEK 5

*(Open date: Cincinnati, Minnesota, Oakland, Philadelphia)*

**Sunday, Oct. 7**
Arizona at St. Louis 1:00
Atlanta at Tennessee 1:00
Carolina at New Orleans 1:00
Cleveland at New England 1:00
Detroit at Washington 1:00
Jacksonville at Kansas City 1:00
Miami at Houston 1:00
N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Seattle at Pittsburgh 1:00
Tampa Bay at Indianapolis 4:05
Baltimore at San Francisco 4:15
San Diego at Denver 4:15
Chicago at Green Bay 8:15

**Monday, Oct. 8**
Dallas at Buffalo 8:30

### › WEEK 6

*(Open date: Buffalo, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, San Francisco)*

**Sunday, Oct. 14**
Cincinnati at Kansas City 1:00
Houston at Jacksonville 1:00
Miami at Cleveland 1:00
Minnesota at Chicago 1:00
Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets 1:00
St. Louis at Baltimore 1:00
Tennessee at Tampa Bay 1:00
Washington at Green Bay 1:00
Carolina at Arizona 4:05
New England at Dallas 4:15
Oakland at San Diego 4:15
New Orleans at Seattle 8:15

**Monday, Oct. 15**
N.Y. Giants at Atlanta 8:30

### › WEEK 7

*(Open date: Carolina, Cleveland, Green Bay, San Diego)*

**Sunday, Oct. 21**
Arizona at Washington 1:00
Atlanta at New Orleans 1:00
Baltimore at Buffalo 1:00
Minnesota at Dallas 1:00
New England at Miami 1:00
San Francisco at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Tampa Bay at Detroit 1:00
Tennessee at Houston 1:00
Kansas City at Oakland 4:05
N.Y. Jets at Cincinnati 4:05
Chicago at Philadelphia 4:15
St. Louis at Seattle 4:15
Pittsburgh at Denver 8:15

**Monday, Oct. 22**
Indianapolis at Jacksonville 8:30

### › WEEK 8

*(Open date: Arizona, Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Kansas City, Seattle)*

**Sunday, Oct. 28**
Cleveland at St. Louis 1:00
Detroit at Chicago 1:00
Indianapolis at Carolina 1:00
N.Y. Giants at Miami* 1:00
Oakland at Tennessee 1:00
Philadelphia at Minnesota 1:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati 1:00
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets 4:05
Houston at San Diego 4:05
Jacksonville at Tampa Bay 4:05
New Orleans at San Francisco 4:15
Washington at New England 4:15

**Monday, Oct. 29**
Green Bay at Denver 8:30
**in London*

### › WEEK 9

*(Open date: Chicago, Miami, N.Y. Giants, St. Louis)*

**Sunday, Nov. 4**
Arizona at Tampa Bay 1:00
Carolina at Tennessee 1:00
Cincinnati at Buffalo 1:00
Denver at Detroit 1:00
Green Bay at Kansas City 1:00
Jacksonville at New Orleans 1:00
San Diego at Minnesota 1:00
San Francisco at Atlanta 1:00
Washington at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Seattle at Cleveland 4:05
Houston at Oakland 4:15
New England at Indianapolis 4:15
Dallas at Philadelphia 8:15

**Monday, Nov. 5**
Baltimore at Pittsburgh 8:30

### › WEEK 10

*(Open date: Houston, New England, N.Y. Jets, Tampa Bay)*

**Sunday, Nov. 11**
Atlanta at Carolina 1:00
Buffalo at Miami 1:00
Cleveland at Pittsburgh 1:00
Denver at Kansas City 1:00
Jacksonville at Tennessee 1:00
Minnesota at Green 1:00
Philadelphia at Washington 1:00
St. Louis at New Orleans 1:00
Cincinnati at Baltimore 4:05
Chicago at Oakland 4:15
Dallas at N.Y. Giants 4:15
Detroit at Arizona 4:15
Indianapolis at San Diego 8:15

**Monday, Nov. 12**
San Francisco at Seattle 8:30

### › WEEK 11

**Sunday, Nov. 18**
Arizona at Cincinnati 1:00
Carolina at Green Bay 1:00
Cleveland at Baltimore 1:00
Kansas City at Indianapolis 1:00
Miami at Philadelphia 1:00
New England at Buffalo 1:00
New Orleans at Houston 1:00
Oakland at Minnesota 1:00
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets 1:00
San Diego at Jacksonville 1:00
Tampa Bay at Atlanta 1:00
Washington at Dallas 1:00
N.Y. Giants at Detroit 4:15
St. Louis at San Francisco 4:15
Chicago at Seattle 8:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games could move to 8:15 p.m.*

**Monday, Nov. 19**
Tennessee at Denver 8:30

### › WEEK 12

**Thursday, Nov. 22**
Green Bay at Detroit 12:30
N.Y. Jets at Dallas 4:15
Indianapolis at Atlanta 8:15

**Sunday, Nov. 25**
Buffalo at Jacksonville 1:00
Denver at Chicago 1:00
Houston at Cleveland 1:00
Minnesota at N.Y. Giants 1:00
New Orleans at Carolina 1:00
Oakland at Kansas City 1:00
Seattle at St. Louis 1:00
Tennessee at Cincinnati 1:00
Washington at Tampa Bay 1:00
San Francisco at Arizona 4:05
Baltimore at San Diego 4:15
Philadelphia at New England 8:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games could move to 8:15 p.m.*

**Monday, Nov. 26**
Miami at Pittsburgh 8:30

### › WEEK 13

**Thursday, Nov. 29**
Green Bay at Dallas 8:15

**Sunday, Dec. 2**
Atlanta at St. Louis 1:00
Buffalo at Washington 1:00
Detroit at Minnesota 1:00
Houston at Tennessee 1:00
Jacksonville at Indianapolis 1:00
N.Y. Jets at Miami 1:00
San Diego at Kansas City 1:00
Seattle at Philadelphia 1:00
San Francisco at Carolina 1:00
Tampa Bay at New Orleans 1:00
Cleveland at Arizona 4:05
Denver at Oakland 4:05
N.Y. Giants at Chicago 4:15
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh 8:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games could move to 8:15 p.m.*

**Monday, Dec. 3**
New England at Baltimore 8:30

### › WEEK 14

**Thursday, Dec. 6**
Chicago at Washington 8:15

**Sunday, Dec. 9**
Carolina at Jacksonville 1:00
Dallas at Detroit 1:00
Miami at Buffalo 1:00
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia 1:00
Oakland at Green Bay 1:00
Pittsburgh at New England 1:00
San Diego at Tennessee 1:00
St. Louis at Cincinnati 1:00
Tampa Bay at Houston 1:00
Arizona at Seattle 4:05
Minnesota at San Francisco 4:05
Cleveland at N.Y. Jets 4:15
Kansas City at Denver 4:15
Indianapolis at Baltimore 8:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games could move to 8:15 p.m.*

**Monday, Dec. 10**
New Orleans at Atlanta 8:30

### › WEEK 15

**Thursday, Dec. 13**
Denver at Houston 8:15

**Saturday, Dec. 15**
Cincinnati at San Francisco 8:15

**Sunday, Dec. 16**
Arizona at New Orleans 1:00
Atlanta at Tampa Bay 1:00
Baltimore at Miami 1:00
Buffalo at Cleveland 1:00
Green Bay at St. Louis 1:00
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh 1:00
N.Y. Jets at New England 1:00
Seattle at Carolina 1:00
Tennessee at Kansas City 1:00
Indianapolis at Oakland 4:05
Detroit at San Diego 4:15
Philadelphia at Dallas 4:15
Washington at N.Y. Giants 8:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games could move to 8:15 p.m.*

**Monday, Dec. 17**
Chicago at Minnesota 8:30

### › WEEK 16

**Thursday, Dec. 20**
Pittsburgh at St. Louis 8:15

**Saturday, Dec. 22**
Dallas at Carolina 8:15

**Sunday, Dec. 23**
Cleveland at Cincinnati 1:00
Green Bay at Chicago 1:00
Houston at Indianapolis 1:00
Kansas City at Detroit 1:00
Miami at New England 1:00
N.Y. Giants at Buffalo 1:00
Oakland at Jacksonville 1:00
Philadelphia at New Orleans 1:00
Washington at Minnesota 1:00
Atlanta at Arizona 4:05
Baltimore at Seattle 4:15
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee 4:15
Tampa Bay at San Francisco 8:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games could move to 8:15 p.m.*

**Monday, Dec. 24**
Denver at San Diego 8:00

### › WEEK 17

**Saturday, Dec. 29**
New England at N.Y. Giants 8:15

**Sunday, Dec. 30**
Buffalo at Philadelphia 1:00
Carolina at Tampa Bay 1:00
Cincinnati at Miami 1:00
Dallas at Washington 1:00
Detroit at Green Bay 1:00
Jacksonville at Houston 1:00
New Orleans at Chicago 1:00
Pittsburgh at Baltimore 1:00
Seattle at Atlanta 1:00
San Francisco at Cleveland 1:00
Tennessee at Indianapolis 1:00
Minnesota at Denver 4:15
San Diego at Oakland 4:15
St. Louis at Arizona 4:15
Kansas City at N.Y. Jets 8:15
** Note: One of the Sunday games could move to 8:15 p.m.*

## POSTSEASON GAMES

**Wild Card Games**
Sat.-Sun., Jan. 5-6, 2008

**Divisional Playoffs**
Sat.-Sun., Jan. 12-13, 2008

**Conference Championship**
Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008

**SUPER BOWL XLII**
University of Phoenix Stadium, Glendale, Ariz.
Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008

**AFC-NFC Pro Bowl**
Aloha Stadium, Honolulu
Saturday, Feb. 10, 2008

# Will Your Team Come Up High As A Kite? Or Flat As A Pancake?

Learn how we called the shots 4-0 with Georgia months before the season even started!

BRAGGING RIGHTS

RESPECT

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